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WEDNESDAY
THE JERUSALEM POST
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MAGAZINE

A-G orders independent probe into leak of Deri case wiretaps

LIAT COLLINS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair yesterday appointed a team to investigate possible leaks by the police and General Security Service of the wiretapping of the phones of defendants in the Aryeh Deri case.

The team will be headed by Gen. (res.) Moshe Gidron, security forces ombudsman, and is expected to begin work today. The issue arose from taped evidence submitted last week at the trial of Deri and his three co-defendants. On the tape, recorded by chief prosecution witness Ya'acov Shmuelovitz, defendant Moshe Weinberg claims that he and the others were told by contacts in the GSS that their phones were being tapped.

"The suspicion that the wiretaps were leaked points to a serious and dangerous fault in investigatory methods," Ben-Yair told members of the Knesset Justice and Law Committee, after MKs Dedi Zucker (Meretz), Limor Livnat (Likud), and Eliezer Zandberg (Tzomet), and former GSS head Ya'acov Perry requested a commission of inquiry. Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, also requested an inquiry.

"These suspicions harm public trust in investigatory methods and investigators," Ben-Yair said.

He stressed that the investigation would be into the possibility of leaks as such and not be a reassessment of the Deri trial.

"As the head of the public prosecution system, I feel it is my duty to insure that the trial of Deri and the others will not be harmed by the inquiry," he said.

He said that he had appointed Gidron's team to act independently, and noted that it is not responsible to either the police or the GSS.

Wiretapping operations of the sort in question are ordered by the police, which are largely responsible for them, but carried out at the technical level by the GSS.



Former GSS chief Ya'acov Perry, whose identity was revealed yesterday. Appointed in 1988, he was replaced by K. (Flash 90)

Public may get stake in state companies

PRIVATIZATION will stop being an abstraction to most people, if Finance Minister Avraham Shohat adopts a recommendation to distribute free vouchers for the purchase of state-owned companies and banks to the public.

In an effort to jump-start the government's privatization program, which was held back last year by the stock market slump, Shohat established a committee, headed by Finance Ministry director-general David Brodet, to study the possibility of distributing shares of state-owned companies to the public.

The panel last night presented Shohat with a plan to distribute free vouchers, worth NIS 400-NIS 600, that could be sold on the stock market or be used to purchase a

package of shares in firms that are being privatized.

Anyone listed in the voters' registry - about 3 million people - would be entitled to receive the vouchers for the purchase of a package of about NIS 2,000-worth of shares. Based on the address recorded in the registry, people will receive notification from the Bank of Israel, which will deposit the voucher in the bank of the individual's choice.

Three or four months after the vouchers are distributed, the stock market will open trading on the vouchers. Six months after distribution, it will be possible to convert the vouchers into shares at a price that reflects a 20 percent to 30 percent discount on their market price.

Since the package of shares offered will be worth about NIS 2,000, the voucher will entitle its holder to a

JOSE ROSENFELD

discount of NIS 400-NIS 600, depending on the size of the discount that is finally agreed to. If the voucher holder does not want to buy shares, he will be able to sell the voucher on the stock market.

To avoid a run on particular stocks, the price of the shares at the time one converts the voucher will be their average price over the preceding 20 days.

The panel recommended establishing a management group that would be responsible for the program's implementation, including drafting the required legislation.

According to Brodet, should the program be approved by Shohat, it would require its own special arrangements law.

The first candidates for privatization in this fashion would be companies that

have already issued a prospectus and undertaken the necessary structural and regulatory reforms.

The panel initially proposes to sell a group of companies, worth NIS 6 billion, that could include Israel Chemicals, Bezek, El Al, Zim, Israel Electric Corporation, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, Bank Discount, and Bank Mizrahi.

After the vouchers can be traded for shares, people will have between a year and two years to buy the shares, before the vouchers expire.

Brodet said that the banks have agreed to open a free account for those who do not have a bank account, so that they can participate in the program. He added that the banks have committed themselves to charging minimal fees for handling the vouchers.

According to Brodet, the program will cost NIS 8m., compared to underwriting costs of NIS 260m. for a

stock issue of this magnitude.

The entrance of a large number of investors in the stock market will have a positive influence, he added. "It will give the stock market a broader base, and therefore more stability. I don't think we'll be sorry about this," he said.

Brodet said the panel chose the voters' registry to determine who is entitled to receive a voucher, because other options would have been less fair.

"For example, if we had used the list of taxpayers, we would have excluded a large number of people whose income is below the tax threshold, and we would have excluded the less well-to-do from the program," he said.

A room full of economic reporters had difficulty understanding the program, even after Brodet explained it. But he dismissed the possibility that the average citizen would have the same difficulty.



Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas kisses Holocaust survivor Ya'acov Brosh, who was demonstrating against his visit, yesterday at Yad Vashem. (Efraim Kishon)

Lithuanian president apologizes for 'bestial acts' committed there in WWII

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE LITHUANIAN government accepts full responsibility for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals from that country. President Algirdas Brazauskas declared upon arriving in Jerusalem yesterday.

Following a visit to Yad Vashem, he also said he had come to Israel to apologize to the people for "the bestial acts" committed in Lithuania during the Holocaust.

"As president of Lithuania, I feel obligated to state: The fact that Lithuanians participated in the murder, deportation, arrest and torture of Jews during the Second World War generates a deep shame and imposes a difficult burden," Brazauskas said, at a welcoming ceremony at Beit Hanassi. "Words of truth and repentance are needed."

"However, I should also like to emphasize that the government of Lithuania accepts full responsibility to prosecute the perpetrators," he continued. "That will be done consistently, conscientiously and publicly. It will not right the tragedy of the Jews, it

will not recompense their injury, but it will be a firm step in the direction of justice."

Welcoming his guest at the ceremony, attended by the prime minister, foreign minister and other cabinet ministers and dignitaries, President Ezer Weizman also made mention of the Holocaust.

"Israel is the homeland of the Jews," he said. "It was founded after the Second World War, which found the Jews of the world in the terrible disaster known as the Holocaust. This Holocaust did not miss your country, Lithuania, or the Jews of Lithuania, unfortunately."

Some 50 former Lithuanian Jews, unconvinced by Brazauskas's declarations of good will, were waiting at the gates of Yad Vashem, where the two presidents drove immediately after the ceremony. Wearing yellow Stars of David on their chests and waving placards in Lithuanian, the demonstrators were re-

strained by police as they tried to storm the presidential limousine.

"Why didn't he admit the Lithuanians' guilt when we gathered last year at Pannar [the forest where Jews were massacred] in Lithuania?" asked Haya Shavit, who came here from Vilnius in 1957. "Why are all the Jewish graves there broken?"

"He must apologize to us and prosecute those war criminals who have been rehabilitated," said another survivor, Ya'acov Brosh.

"There is a consistent discrepancy between pronouncements made by Lithuanian officials and the actions taken by the government with regard to rehabilitation, prosecution and extradition of war criminals," added Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Institute in Israel, who joined the protesters.

Outside the Hall of Remembrance, the demonstrators again started shouting as Brazauskas, who was accompanied by his

daughter, the speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament, his ministers of foreign affairs and health and other senior officials, tried to enter for a memorial service.

The Lithuanian president went up to one demonstrator, held his hand and kissed him. And Weizman stood for a long while trying to comfort the survivors.

"I am 15 years' old and believe in the future," Yitzhak Rodashevsky wrote in his diary in the Vilna ghetto in November 1942. Signing the visitors' book at Yad Vashem, Brazauskas quoted him and added: "This Jewish youth died but the Lithuanian government will do all in its power to ensure that all the 15-year-olds should know about the tragedy of the Jews."

Later, he said: "I have come to apologize for the bestial acts." Last night, Weizman and his wife, Reuma, hosted a dinner for the visiting president and his entourage. Brazauskas will address the Knesset today.

Words must be matched by deeds, Page 2

US general: Iran has missiles at Gulf entrance

WASHINGTON (AP) - Iran has deployed Hawk antiaircraft missiles on islands at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, Gen. John Shalikashvili said yesterday.

"We spotted them putting missiles onto launchers, which they haven't done before," said the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. President Clinton said the US is "monitoring them, trying to evaluate exactly everything we need to know about them. But we're on top of the situation, and we think there is no undue cause for concern at this moment."

Full report, Page 4

Stock voucher plan: What's in it for me?

JOSE ROSENFELD

How will I be able to receive the voucher?

After you get a notice from the Bank of Israel, you have to go to your bank and ask that the voucher be deposited in your account.

What do I do to sell the voucher?

Three to four months after the vouchers are distributed, they will begin to be traded in the stock market. You will be able to instruct your bank to sell it.

How much will I get for the voucher?

It depends on the market price. However, since the voucher entitles you to a discount of between NIS 400 and NIS 600, it will trade at a similar price level, although it will be affected by supply and demand. If I want to trade the voucher for a package of shares, do I have to pay anything?

Yes. Six months after the vouchers are distributed, you will be able to purchase the shares at a discount. The voucher entitles you to a discount of 20 to 30 percent of the share package price, which is estimated to be NIS 2,000. This means that you will have to put up roughly between NIS 1,400 and NIS 1,600 of your own money, depending on the average price of the share package in the preceding 20 days.

'Gaza man held for hiding The Engineer'

JON IMMANUEL

YIHYE Ayash, known as "The Engineer," was hidden in Gaza City's Shajaiyeh neighborhood by a man who was arrested on February 8, the Hamas weekly *Al-Wakeel* reported yesterday.

Ayash, the most wanted man on Israel's list of fugitive terrorists, is suspected of constructing several of the bombs used in the past year's suicide attacks. If true, it means Ayash, a Samaria resident, has fled to the autonomous areas and may have since escaped abroad.

Neither a Palestinian security police spokesman nor the chief of Gaza civil police Brig. Ghazi Jabali could verify the report, which identified the man who hid Ayash as Khalil Kadura.

In Gaza Central Prison, 40 de-

tainees from Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine began a hunger strike yesterday, according to Gaza sources.

Amnesty International began an appeal for the release of some 51 detainees from these groups, who Amnesty says have been in jail since February 6 and have not been permitted to see a lawyer, which contravenes Palestinian criminal procedures. Amnesty said.

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered a freeze on police recruitment and may fire 2,000 policemen because there are more than permitted in the Oslo accords. *Al Hayat al-Jadida*, a Ramallah-based weekly reported.

Senate committee confirms Indyk as ambassador to Israel

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday confirmed Martin Indyk's nomination to be the next ambassador to Israel.

Indyk's nomination passed unanimously by voice vote in a committee business meeting that lasted "exactly one minute," a

staffer said afterwards.

The decision becomes official only after a Senate vote. However, it is expected Indyk's nomination will be approved unanimously - perhaps as early as today - without even coming to the Senate floor, the staffer said.



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3 Hizbullah men slain; IAF jets buzz Bekaa Valley

THREE Hizbullah gunmen were killed by South Lebanese Army fire yesterday, as artillery duels raged along the security zone and air force jets buzzed Hizbullah camps in the Bekaa Valley. The naval blockade of Lebanese ports also continued.

However, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said Israel is not blocking the ports, merely ensuring that arms shipments intended for Hizbullah do not get through.

"We do not use military means

for political ends in Lebanon. I think we have learned that lesson from previous experience in Lebanon. We allow Lebanese fishing boats to sail, if they comply with our requests to inspect their cargo, and detain them if they do not comply," Gur told Channel One yesterday evening.

Lebanese security sources told news agencies that navy gunboats fired warning shots at fishing vessels off Tyre. The IDF did not confirm the reports, but navy sources

reconfirmed that navy patrol and missile boats are sailing several kilometers off Tyre, Sidon, Zaharani, and Damour.

Yesterday morning, IAF jets buzzed Hizbullah strongholds in the Bekaa Valley several times. Their sonic booms shattered windows in Baalbek, Hizbullah's ideological center in Lebanon, where the organization was founded in 1983.

Lebanese sources said low-flying jets flew over the area for 10 min-

utes, drawing anti-aircraft fire from Syrian army units and Hizbullah gunmen. There were no hits or bombs dropped, police reported.

Baalbek, close to the Syrian border, is the main supply base for Hizbullah and is frequently visited by Syrian intelligence officers. The IAF reported that three Hizbullah gunmen trying to infiltrate the security zone were killed when

IDF artillery was directed at the area where they were detected.

Hizbullah said its men had engaged SLA fighters trying to sneak out of the zone.

In another development, the SLA freed 35 Shi'ite prisoners held in the Al-Khiam prison for collaborating with Hizbullah. They were freed as a gesture of goodwill marking Id al-Fitr, the holiday ending Ramadan.

Twenty-four of those freed returned to their villages in the securi-

ty zone. The others were freed at Tibnit, on the northern edge of the zone.

Liat Collins adds:

Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that there is cooperation between Hizbullah and the Palestinians is increasing.

He also reportedly said that "Israeli fire at Lebanese villages and towns is aimed only at the source of

fire. If our forces identify firing, even from a civilian structure, they will shoot at it.

"There were mistakes in the past, and civilians have been injured both by the IDF and the SLA. We do not have full control over the SLA, especially not when speaking about shooting by the SLA soldiers from positions which are being attacked by artillery fire. IDF officers, at all levels, are aware of the instructions not to fire at civilians.

Shahak: 160 anti-tank mines found in Gaza

SOME 160 anti-tank mines have been discovered in Gaza in recent weeks. Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

The mines were discovered on three occasions, partly in joint operations with the Palestinian Police.

He said the mines were probably brought into Gaza from either Sinai or the Negev. Shahak also said that the forces trying to prevent infiltrations into Gaza by sea had been increased, but that the coast could not be sealed hermetically.

He said that Yasser Abu Samah-

dana, the Fatah Hawk wanted for the murder of 35 Palestinians, had probably returned to Gaza by sea. Sha-

LIAT COLLINS

hak said there was no positive evidence that Samahdana had killed any Jews.

Shahak said that for the first time in several years, there had been a drop in the number of terror attacks during Ramadan, although the "quality" of the attacks had risen, particularly in Gaza. He attributed this not necessarily to the closure of the territories, but possibly to the success of the Beit Lid attack.

"An attack of this magnitude not only affects Israel, but also the Palestinians," he reportedly said, noting that the terrorists may have felt they could rest on their laurels for a while.

He said the closure is causing economic hardship in Gaza, but helping Israel control who enters the country. The IDF is trying to alleviate the hardship without harming security interests by permitting the export of flowers, strawberries, and citrus fruit, Shahak said, adding that such measures have not significantly improved the economic situation.

He noted that military training that had been halted during the intifada had been resumed as planned.

While former chief of general staff Moshe Levy is expected to submit his findings on the death of Maj. Kewann Hamad, allegedly

killed in Lebanon in December during "kill verification," next week, Shahak said that according to his information, IDF soldiers had shot in Hamad's direction some 20 minutes after he had been killed by terrorist fire. Shahak nonetheless denied that there is such a thing as kill verification.

On a different note, he was asked about reports that Chief IDF Cantor Arye Braun earns a five- or six-figure sum annually for appearing in Canada during the High Holy Days. Shahak said he assumed Braun had the relevant permits to work abroad, and added: "We need cantors, and we are holding on to them for dear life. They don't need army pay."



Yitzhak Elyashiv, director-general of the JNF, greets Sharon Lerher, a member of the 250-strong mission of JNF supporters from Canada that arrived here this week for a 10-day study tour. (Flash 90)

Lithuanian deeds must speak louder than words

BACKGROUND
DAVID MAKOVSKY

LITHUANIAN President Algirdas Brazauskas's expression of shame regarding Lithuanians' war crimes against Jews during the Holocaust, however welcome, must now be matched by the rescinding of wholesale exonerations of Lithuanians believed to have participated in those murders, activists and officials here said.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office last night, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel cannot allow Nazi war criminals to be rehabilitated.

Post-communist Lithuania has yet to prosecute a single Lithuanian suspected of killing an estimated 220,000 Jews during the Holocaust, despite assurances it would do so. According to historian Dov Levin, who has studied the history of Lithuania during the Holocaust years, most Lithuanian Jews killed died at the hands of their own countrymen.

"Nine of every 10 people who killed Jews in Lithuania during the Holocaust were local Lithuanians," Levin said.

Moreover, not a single Lithuanian living abroad has been extradited to stand trial, despite the fact that many such Nazis have been uncovered in the US, Canada, Britain, and Australia.

The immediate issue surrounds the question of how many Lithuanians involved in Nazi mass murder were on a list of an estimated 35,000-50,000 people Vilnius absolved of criminality four years ago. Ephraim Zuroff, the Simon Wiesenthal Center representative on a seven-member Israeli-Lithuanian commission to investigate the issue, said he has been led to believe that approximately 5,000 Lithuanians who killed Lithuanian Jews were rehabilitated by the authorities.

The Lithuanian rehabilitation law, passed five years ago, said there would be no vindication for those involved in genocide.

However, instead of turning the preparation of the rehabilitation list over to an impartial or judicial panel, the government issued broad exonerations, insisting that post-World War II Soviet courts had unfairly convicted Lithuanians as Nazi collaborators or war criminals. Many of them are believed to have served a few years in Soviet prison or exile in the late 1940's or early 1950's.

Following a Jewish outcry regarding the wholesale rehabilitations, Lithuania promised to establish a commission to see which of these exonerations should not have been granted. Rehabilitation has meant that a Lithuanian

recovers confiscated property and obtains the equivalent of 18 months' salary.

The commission got off to a late start due to bureaucratic bungling by the Justice and Foreign ministries, but now that the commission exists, Zuroff complained, Lithuania has not been cooperating. The Lithuanians have not volunteered to provide the commission with any lists, including those who were convicted of murder, he said.

"Most of the 65 files we were allowed to check were of names we provided to the Lithuanian authorities," Zuroff said.

"But this is only the tip of the iceberg, and we cannot possibly determine who else was illegally rehabilitated without full access to the files. Virtually all of the files we saw were members of the Lithuanian security units or local police and vigilante squads, who served in units actively involved in the killing of Jews."

Israel and Jordan coordinating aid campaign

HILLEL KUTTLER and DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL and Jordan are coordinating efforts to assure that US debt assistance to Amman goes through as planned.

Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich and Fayeze Tarawneh have begun meeting on the matter, Israeli officials in Washington said yesterday.

"We think the Jordanian contribution to the peace process is important," one official said. "We're not only talking about the importance of the assistance to Israeli-Jordanian peace, but also the fact Jordan is a strategic asset to the US. We're making an effort to concretize what's been promised to them."

The official held out the possibility that Rabinovich and Tarawneh would meet jointly with congressional appropriations committees to make their case.

President Bill Clinton's 1996 budget, which he presented to Congress earlier this month, included \$275 million to effectively wipe out

the remainder of Amman's \$700 million debt to the US.

The debt relief was instituted last summer, when King Hussein signed the Washington Declaration that set the stage for the formal peace treaty.

The budget also calls for \$7.2 million in economic assistance and \$30 million worth of military equipment to Amman.

Meanwhile, it was demonstrated twice yesterday that the newest status symbol in the organized American Jewish community is an audience with Hussein, who received separately at his Amman palace both the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, an umbrella group involving representatives of some 50 national Jewish groups, and representatives of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Spokesmen for each group noted

with pride that Hussein promised to be hosted by each when he next visits the US. The visit is tentatively planned for the end of this month or the beginning of next.

The Wiesenthal Center invited Hussein to accept its Museum of Tolerance Peace Award for 1995, marking the first time it has given such an award to an Arab leader.

"I am deeply honored to extend to you an invitation to deliver a keynote address some time during 1995 and to receive the Museum of Tolerance's Peace Award, in recognition of your commitment to world peace and stability," Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the center, told Hussein in a brief address, AP reported.

The two groups were only the latest to visit the king. In the last few weeks, delegations from the American Jewish Committee and Ameri-

can Jewish Congress have also made their way to Amman, preceded by leaders of the World Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith International.

By all accounts, Hussein has been gracious. For example, he volunteered to take no less than 75 separate photographs with Presidents' Conference delegates.

While King Hussein may view the American Jewish activists as having a great deal of political clout, so far they have not lived up to the billing. Presidents' Conference Chairman Lester Pollack told Hussein that he was sorry to see a congressional panel slash supplemental debt relief to Jordan last week, and hoped there would be better news in the future.

Interestingly, hardly any of the American Jewish leaders stopped by to see either Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat or Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Two orchestras will merge

HELEN KAYE

SCIENCE and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Rishon LeZion Mayor Meir Nitzan have announced that the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion (ISO) and the Tel Aviv Symphony Orchestra (TASO) will merge in September, and will be known by a new name as yet to be chosen.

The new orchestra will meet the symphonic needs of both cities.

Milo said the 100-110 musicians will be drawn "from the best musicians in both bodies."

The merger will partially solve the problems of the financially strapped TASO, but around 30 of its 60 players will be looking for new jobs.

Prisoners to get leave for religious holidays

Prisoners of all religions will be eligible for special 96-hour furloughs for one major religious holiday of their faith, the Prisons Service has announced. The decision was reached after a discussion between Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Prisons Service chief Arye Bibi.

Only prisoners eligible for furloughs will be allowed to take the special vacations. The new arrangement will be instituted this week to allow Moslem prisoners to go on furlough during the upcoming Id al-Fitr holiday. *Itim*

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today, 1 p.m., at the YMCA, King David St. The Mexican ambassador, the Hon. Lic. Rafael Rodriguez Barrera, will address the club.

IDF presents plans to stop illegal entry of Palestinians

BILL HUTMAN

THE IDF yesterday presented the separation committee established after the Beit Lid bombing with its proposal for keeping Palestinians from Judea and Samaria from entering Israel illegally.

The committee, headed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, is expected to meet again at least once this week before a proposal is finalized.

The IDF proposal was similar to that already presented by police, police sources said. It was based largely on increasing patrols along the Green Line and setting up check-

points similar to those in Gaza through which Palestinians would enter Israel.

The IDF and police were at odds over who would be in command of the patrols, with each wanting responsibility, according to the sources.

Yesterday's meeting was held at the Police Ministry in Jerusalem, with senior army officers presenting the IDF proposal. In addition to the police and army, the General Security Service is also represented on the committee.

Yigal Allon Prize will be awarded this week

THIS year's Yigal Allon Prize for pioneering bravery will be awarded to Meir Davidson of Kibbutz Eilon and the IDF Medical Corps team which treated Rwandan refugees, the Information Center has announced.

The prizes will be given tomorrow at a ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum.

The cash award is comparable to that carried by the Israel Prize. It is granted annually to a person and an organization whose pioneering deeds set an example for others.

Davidson was chosen for his contributions in building and defending the state. *Itim*

PA booklet stresses 'right of return'

LIAT COLLINS

THE Palestinians do not recognize the Balfour Declaration or the 1947 partition plan and demand the right to return to land they considered conquered.

These are the main points of an official booklet produced by the Palestinian Authority's Information Ministry entitled: "Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return."

MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) distributed the English-language booklet to MKs yesterday, a week after he disclosed a similar PA booklet on Jewish immigration.

Begin called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to shut down the ministry, which operates in Ramallah in contravention to the Oslo agreement restricting PA offices to Jericho or Gaza.

"The 1947 resolution on the partition of Palestine came only to complement the unjust laws and military orders enacted by the British Mandate government. The Palestinian people didn't accept the Balfour

Declaration at any time," the booklet says.

"As a result of the Balfour Declaration and the partition plan, the racist policy of the British Mandate government and the brutalities perpetrated by the Jews against the Palestinians, a total of over 750,000 Palestinian refugees were forced to abandon their homes and seek refuge in neighboring Arab countries. This large number of people didn't leave their country voluntarily, but were forced to flee following the Zionist massacres committed against unarmed Palestinians."

The booklet describes four "waves" of forced emigration and displacement and emphasizes the Deir Yassin massacre.

"The booklet proves that the PLO has not changed its plan of stages, whose eventual aim is to wipe Israel from the map, and it proves that [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin's separation plan won't bring about peace but an increase in terror," Begin said.

With great sorrow we announce the death of
Dr. VICTOR EPEL
on February 28, 1995.
Deeply mourned by:
His wife, Adele,
His Daughters, Keren and Allyson
Grandchildren, Ziv, Yosef, Stav,
Adam, Alexandra and Lauren.
He bequeathed his body to science.

AMIC expresses sincere condolences to
BASHIE SELEVAN
Associate Chairman National Board,
and her family
on the passing of their beloved husband and father
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Shoshanna Rick Chmn., Israel Executive Dr. Ami Ze'evi Director General Mrs. Norma Holzer National President

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The Israel Women's Network celebrates its decennial and International Women's Day with
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Tel Aviv - Wednesday, March 8, at 7 p.m.
at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque
In co-operation with the Women's Council of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality
Jerusalem - Saturday, March 11, at 8 p.m.
at the Van Leer Institute, Rehov Jabotinsky
For reservations call the Israel Women's Network, Tel. 02-439966



Interior Minister Uzi Baram (left) enters his new office yesterday. At right, Minister of Religious Affairs Shimon Shetreet visits the Western Wall before meeting with the chief rabbis.



Shetreet, Baram take over ministries

HERB KEINON and Itim

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin lost two of his four cabinet portfolios yesterday, when he formally handed over the Religious Affairs Ministry to Shimon Shetreet and the Interior Ministry to Uzi Baram.

Rabin, however, still retains the Defense portfolio.

At a ceremony in his office, Rabin said he is happy Religious Affairs finally has someone who "can dedicate much more time to it than I

was able to."

Shetreet spoke of the need to provide religious services to the entire population, and said a secular minister may have greater success than a religious one in bringing secular Israelis to Jewish tradition.

After the ceremony, Shetreet went to the Western Wall and toured the tunnels. He also met with the

chief rabbis, and had a reception at his new ministry.

Meanwhile, Baram moved into the long-vacant minister's office and promised staffers he would study the ministry's problems in a "crash course."

The Interior Ministry has been without a full-time minister since

Aryeh Deri was forced out 18 months ago.

Deri wished Baram well on Army Radio, saying: "He has a good approach, a fast approach. He makes decisions quickly and without hesitation."

"I appreciate Deri," Baram responded. "He was excellent in the government, and if Shas returns to the government, the ministry belongs to it tomorrow."

Police: Murder suspects tied to earlier killing

RAINE MARCUS

TEL Aviv police believe they have solved the murder of 44-year-old Rosita Salalila, who was stabbed and beaten to death last August at the home of her elderly employer in Ramat Gan.

They suspect that Joe Matias, 37, and Marilyn Berilee, 34, who were arrested last week for the double murder of Filipina national Donna Pinol, and her Israeli boyfriend, Avner Harel, also killed Salalila.

Supt. Alon Grossman said that certain similarities between the two murders led them to link the suspects to Salalila's murder.

"Both Donna Pinol and Rosita Salalila sold jewelry for a living and the motives in both cases were robbery," said Grossman.

Salalila, a mother of nine, was murdered August 2 at the home of her employer, 94-year-old Bin-

yamin Calev, who was home at the time but did not see or hear anything.

Her body was discovered by Calev's daughter, who had come to visit her father.

Until last week, police had no solid leads in the murder, but last week, detectives found jewelry and a camera that belonged to Salalila at Matias's home. Police also found the murder weapons used in both killings, which are currently undergoing forensic examinations.

Initially, Matias and Berilee gave conflicting and contradictory statements to police regarding Salalila's murder. Grossman said there is now substantive evidence implicating the couple, who both worked as caregivers

for elderly people.

Matias and Berilee were arrested 10 days ago for the double murder of Harel and Pinol, whose bodies were found January 14 outside the cemetery at the Morasha junction.

Police used an interpreter during the investigation to translate from the suspects' native Tagalog. Last week the pair reenacted the murders of Pinol and Harel for police. The two were stabbed seven times and choked. The murders were committed in Harel's car, in the Petah Tikva and Herzliya areas.

A third suspect, another Filipino national whose identity is known, fled the country before the arrests.

A remand hearing for Matias and Berilee has been set for March 7.

Three suspects in hijacking of truck captured

RAINE MARCUS

PETAH TIKVA police have arrested two Arabs and a Jew, who allegedly hijacked a truck driven by a Ness Ziona employee of Coca-Cola yesterday morning.

At the Kfar Kama junction in the Negev, the driver found his way blocked by a car containing the three men. At gunpoint, they forced him to drive north.

When they reached the Kassem junction, they blindfolded the driver and threw him out of the truck.

Petah Tikva police, acting on tips, traced the truck to Kfar Kassem. One suspect was caught red-handed unloading Coke bottles into a nearby grocery. Police then sealed off the village, and later apprehended the other two suspects.

Opposition MKs visit hunger strikers

OPPOSITION MKs yesterday visited the tent across the road from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem in which Rabbi Menachem Felix and others have been conducting a hunger strike for over two weeks.

Felix's daughter, Ofra, was shot dead by terrorists in January. He declared the hunger strike at the end of the 30-day mourning period to protest the government's peace policies.

Several dozen other visitors to the tent were observing a one-day hunger strike in solidarity with Felix.

"The government, instead of acting against murderers, is conducting a character assassination

of the settlers," Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said. "The murderers do not distinguish between peace activists and settlers."

Netanyahu called on the government to operate under firm, unshakable guidelines that include preventing the release of convicted murderers from prison, support of Palestinians who cooperate with the government, and a strengthening of the IDF's position in those territories it controls.

"We don't want any more Gazas," he said.

Felix asked the visitors to lead the people into the streets, and not just in the Knesset. (Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Credit card gang busted

Police yesterday arrested five members of a Ramat Gan gang which had been stealing credit cards from apartments and parked cars. Four of the gang members, aged between 20 and 40, had criminal records. The fifth, 19, was AWOL from the army. Three of the suspects are to face remand hearings this morning.

Itim

Masked men make US tourist leave Azarya

An American tourist renting an apartment in Azarya was forced to leave after being threatened by masked men who broke in Monday night and who claimed his mother is Jewish.

Stephen Danzig, 57, came here several months ago and moved into the apartment with his girlfriend, a Christian Arab from the village. The masked men left behind a note saying that the apartment would be set on fire with the couple in it if Danzig did not leave. Police took him to the Ma'aleh Adumim police station, where he filed a complaint for assault. In the meantime, Danzig has moved to Jerusalem, and the police have launched an investigation.

Itim

Postal van containing NIS 10,000 stolen

A thief made off with a postal van containing some NIS 10,000 in the Shufat neighborhood of north Jerusalem yesterday, police said.

The driver parked the van in front of the neighborhood post office, which also contains a bank. Once inside, the thief, or a cohort, locked the door shut and stole the van. Police set up roadblocks in the area, but no suspects were detained.

Three arrested in Jaffa demonstration

Three haredim were arrested yesterday at another demonstration at a construction site in Jaffa which the haredim say is the location of an ancient Jewish cemetery. Several hundred people attended the protest.

Work at the site continued uninterrupted. Several rabbis held talks at the site with police commanders, who refused the rabbis' request to hold a mass rally at the site, which they said would attract 25,000 people.

Five haredim who were arrested on Monday remained in custody yesterday. One of them had bitten a police officer in the hand.

Itim

Man drowns in Kinneret

The body of Yaniv Levy, 22, of Poriya, a security officer at the Mitzar Amnon Holiday Village, was found in the Kinneret yesterday morning. Police said he drowned some time late Monday night.

Itim

Byzantine city uncovered

A Byzantine city with at least two churches has been uncovered in Raifa during excavations on the approaches to the Carmel Tunnel. The Israel Antiquities Authority reported yesterday that the remains of the city cover some 25 dunams and include residential areas, cisterns and oil and wine presses. Mosaic floors uncovered in the churches were said to be striking.

Jordanian rock group to perform here

The Jordanian rock group Mirage arrived yesterday to perform around the country, the first cultural event from Jordan to be held in Israel. The tour is being organized by Beit Hagafen, in conjunction with the Foreign Ministry's Department of Cultural Affairs and Science.

Mirage, which has performed in many countries worldwide, performs songs about peace, human and women's rights, the environment, and other issues. It performed during the ceremony for the signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

Beit Hagafen's purpose is to promote dialogue between the two countries through cultural contacts.

Gasoline prices up

The price of gasoline went up by 0.5 percent today - 96 octane will now cost NIS 2.16 a liter, instead of NIS 2.15, and 95 octane (unleaded) NIS 2.10, instead of NIS 2.09. Light fuel oil for industry went up 2.7%, and heavy fuel oil 4.6%.

Panel: MKs should earn more and not moonlight

LIAT COLLINS and BATSHEVA TSUR

KNESSET MEMBERS should receive a salary raise but be banned from moonlighting or holding other paid positions, according to Prof. Ariel Rosen-Zvi, who headed the committee on MKs' wages and conditions.

Rosen-Zvi submitted his recommendations yesterday to the Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss; the Knesset House Committee is to discuss them today.

MKs currently earn an average gross wage of NIS 13,000 a month (the net wage is approximately NIS 6,000). The committee suggests raising this to NIS 18,000 to include all benefits such as car allowance.

"Moonlighting is one of the most difficult phenomena in Knesset life," said Rosen-Zvi. "It creates an obstacle to public trust, it affects the MK's independence and it creates conflict of interests."

MKs are currently allowed to hold other positions as long as the income from it does not exceed half their Knesset salary.

Among other recommendations made by Rosen-Zvi is a suggestion to stop the linking of MKs' wages to those of director-generals and their deputies.

"The work of some MKs is amateurish," said Rosen-Zvi, blaming the lack of parliamentary aides and extra facilities.

Weiss rejected the claim and said this is the hardest working Knesset Israel has had. MKs' salaries are low, he said, compared to those of public servants with similar workload and responsibility.

Meanwhile, following revelations that senior officials of the Jewish Agency have been earning more than cabinet ministers, Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg has set up a committee to ensure parity.

The high salaries earned by the organization's officials came to light during the trial of former agency chairman Simha Dinitz when it was revealed that his monthly salary, in July 1993, was NIS 19,000 - some NIS 8,000 more than the prime minister.

Senior agency officials also earn almost NIS 3,000 more than ministers and have better fringe benefits, with the exception of apartment rentals, documents produced at the trial showed. The agency officials, for example, were given NIS 3,517 as annual vacation pay in 1993 as compared with NIS 2,669 for the ministers.



Who's Calling?

During March, Bezeq will introduce a new digital service: "Calling Number Identification". This service allows you to see, on a special display, the telephone number of the person calling you, before you lift the receiver. The display can be part of telephone or separate, and may be purchased at various outlets.

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At this stage, only a limited number of digital lines will be linked to the "Calling Number Identification". Customers are therefore advised not to purchase the special display or telephone before making certain their lines are in this service.

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American, Italian troops secure positions in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) - American and Italian troops consolidated positions yesterday at Mogadishu's air and sea ports as 900 happy, singing Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers sailed for home.

The departure of the Bangladeshis left only 1,500 Pakistani peacekeepers to be evacuated by the US-led multinational force that came ashore without incident Monday night from a flotilla of warships just off shore.

While Somalia is no closer to order politics than when US troops first landed here 26 months ago, the American commander who took tactical control of the entire operation yesterday morning said the withdrawal is going well.

"If I had to give you a sports analogy, we've finished the first half," Marine Lt. Gen. Anthony C. Zinni said at mid-morning. "We are well ahead of time."

There is little order to a country that has been without a functional government since former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1992.

And Somalia's warring clans are preparing to battle for the city's spoils - the air and sea ports - once

the UN withdrawal is complete.

Being ahead of schedule means the last of the 2,400 peacekeepers will be gone shortly, leaving the Somalis to fend for themselves.

The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Shalikashvili, told reporters yesterday in Washington he was not heartened by that prospect: "All of us hoped against hope the Somalis would get their house in order" by now, he said, adding, "They're on their own."

The Bangladeshi troops guarding the port handed over control of the facilities to the Marines at dawn yesterday. Pakistanis, holding an area outside the perimeter, are expected to move behind US and Italian lines today.

US Marine Lt. Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, the operation's commander, said his units will be the last to leave "and that's probably a few days away."

The United States, Italy, France, Britain and Malaysia put together a force of 14,000 troops, more than half Americans, to protect the retreat of the last peacekeepers. The force had been on 32 ships off Somalia for more than a

week, preparing for the amphibious retreat.

Mogadishu was relatively calm since warring Somali militias battled outside the main gate of the airport.

US Marines first came to Somalia on Dec. 8, 1992, as part of a military coalition sent to save Somalia from war and famine. The country had been without a government since former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

An estimated 350,000 Somalis had died. The United States and its allies largely stopped banditry and militia fighting so food could be delivered to the starving, saving tens of thousands of lives.

Washington turned over the humanitarian mission to the United Nations in March 1993. The emphasis shifted to reconstruction, with the hope of establishing a democratic government.

But US and foreign troops became embroiled in the violent struggle for power among Somalia's warlords. In October 1993, 18 Americans were killed in a firefight with the militia of Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid.



US Marines take positions on the edge of the runway as a UN transport lands at Mogadishu airport yesterday, ahead of the final withdrawal of the peacekeeping force from Somalia. (AP)

Charles and Diana: A Rock Opera

LONDON (Reuters) - The marriage breakdown of Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana is being turned into a rock musical which should hit London's theatre-land later this year, its writers said yesterday.

Tourists drawn to London by its celebrated musicals and the royal family will be able to combine the two with an evening at *Charles and Diana: A Rock Opera*.

The musical will tell the tale of the doomed royal romance from the couple's "fairytale" wedding in St Paul's Cathedral on a hot summer day in 1981, through their acrimonious separation 11 years later, coming up to date with the story of the heir to the throne's love for his old flame, Camilla Parker Bowles.

"A lot of people might think the theme is not tasteful but there is no attempt to come down on one side or the other," said writer Tim Hawkins, working with composer John Kalham on the show.

Maid says Simpson was home during murders

LOS ANGELES (AP) - O.J. Simpson's key alibi witness testified on videotape that she saw his white Ford Bronco parked crookedly outside his estate at the time prosecutors contend he was killing his ex-wife and her male friend.

Rosa Lopez, whose testimony will be played for jurors later in the trial if she leaves, said she saw the Bronco on the street just after 10 p.m. on June 12.

Lopez, a maid for Simpson's next-door neighbor, said in Spanish that she was walking her employers' golden retriever that night. She said she wasn't wearing a watch but had checked a clock just before she left.

"Were you able to see any cars parked out on Rockingham there?" defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. asked.

"Si, Yes," she said.

"And what car did you see parked out there?"

"El Bronco," Lopez said.

Prosecutors claim Simpson drove the Bronco to Nicole Brown Simpson's home three km away and murdered her and friend Ronald Goldman about 10:15. Simpson has pleaded innocent.

The housekeeper's appearance kept the reluctant and tearful promise she made Friday to return to court, but she faced a video camera rather than jurors because of a last-minute plea by prosecutors that she not disrupt their case.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito's decision to tape her testimony, which reversed arrangements made Friday, left Cochran complaining that Ito had been "snooped" by prosecutors seeking to keep Lopez away from the jury.

Complicating matters further, disputes arose over a court translator's ability to interpret Lopez's Spanish-language testimony and the defense's failure to disclose a second interview it conducted with Lopez last summer.

US: Iran has deployed missiles in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Iran has deployed Hawk anti-aircraft missiles on islands in the Straits of Hormuz, boosting fears about its ability to cut off oil shipping from the key waterway, the top US general said yesterday.

"They have right now deployed Hawk missile systems. The other day they started putting missiles on their launchers, which they had not done before," said Army General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"They have artillery forward-positioned" at the narrow neck of the 550-mile waterway stretching from southern Iraq and Kuwait to the Gulf of Oman and one of the world's most strategic oil-shipping routes. Shalikashvili added in an interview with defense reporters.

"All of that can lead you to lots of conclusions," he said. "One of them is that they want to have the capability to interdict the shipping traffic in the Straits of Hormuz."

The Hawks are older US-made missiles, sold by Washington to Teheran in the past, but they are still capable of shooting down low-flying attack aircraft, according to experts.

Shalikashvili did not specify exactly where the missiles had been mounted, but he said such a move fed growing concern among military leaders in the United States, the Middle East and elsewhere about the Moslem revolutionary government's growing military might and its aims in the region.

"I think most of the military leaders in that part of the world and in Europe... are very worried about the trend that we are seeing in Iran," the general said.

Iran has also bought diesel submarines from Russia and has obtained Silkorm anti-ship missiles from China. Both could be used in the shallow Gulf, where Iran and Iraq fought a war in the 1980s which severely disrupted oil shipping.

The United States was drawn militarily into

that conflict when it sent warships to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers, bearing the American flag, up and down the Gulf in 1987 and 1988.

"What they (the Iranians) are doing in the Straits of Hormuz and why they are forward-positioning some military systems on some of their islands and what this is all about bothers us very much," said Shalikashvili.

He told reporters that the United States was using high-tech reconnaissance, which includes spy satellites, and other means to keep a close watch on Iran.

"We have a kind of flashlight focused on that situation," he said. "What we are now doing to watch Iraq allows us to watch Iran."

The United States says that in addition to building major conventional capability, Iran is now also trying to develop or obtain nuclear weapons. Washington has publicly opposed a plan by Russia to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

"I am very worried that a government like Iran would get the capability of weapons of mass destruction," said Shalikashvili.

Russians close second ring around Grozny

MOZDOK (AP) - The Russian military said yesterday its forces have completed a second ring around the Chechen capital Grozny, "fully excluding the possibility" of rebel reinforcements coming in.

The Chechens are now holding only the southwestern part of the city, the area of Chertokhche.

The Russian Interior Ministry press center said 58 Chechen fighters were killed and 15 Russian soldiers were wounded in clashes across Chechnya since Sunday.

The Echo Moscow radio station quoted Chechen spokesmen as saying two Russian SU-25 warplanes were downed by anti-aircraft guns south of Grozny. The report could not be verified immediately.

Besides encircling Grozny, Russian forces were also pushing to the south and east of the capital, areas still controlled by the rebels. The Russians were using heavy artillery fire and air strikes to drive

the separatists out of Grozny.

Oleg Soskovets, Russia's first deputy prime minister and the presidential envoy for Chechnya, arrived at the main Russian military base in Mozdok just outside Chechnya.

Yesterday, he was expected to visit Grozny and chair a session of a government commission on rehabilitating Chechnya.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said Soskovets reiterated the idea of a "new infrastructure" for Chechnya, with the relief effort focusing on rural areas first.

That corresponded with earlier statements by Soskovets, who has said the plan would allow Chechen city dwellers to "settle in the countryside if they wished."

The emphasis on rural restoration means that the refugees who have fled Grozny for outlying villages will have to settle there, and that the capital will lay in ruins for long.

US backs call for Ulster militias to disarm

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - US Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday backed Britain's call for Northern Ireland's Catholic and Protestant fighters to disarm themselves in the face of new peace proposals for the province.

Christopher, welcoming Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, hailed as "historic" the proposals unveiled last week, and urged all parties to negotiate on them, including Protestant Unionists who have called them a sell-out to the Irish Republican Army.

"We urge those who have laid down their arms to take the next potential step, and that is to begin the process of decommissioning, or perhaps more accurately stated, disarming," Christopher told reporters.

Britain says the IRA must make "substantial progress" on disarming itself before it will hold "substantive negotiations." It also says Loyalists must disarm.

The IRA's political wing Sinn

Fein says all guns held by police, army and pro-British groups should be taken out of service at the same time.

Christopher's carefully worded remarks clearly referred only to the paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland, where a ceasefire in the 25-year-old sectarian conflict has been in force since September.

Christopher, referring to last week's "historic joint framework document," pledged the US "will continue to provide strong support to the Irish and British governments as they continue in their dramatic search for peace."

He said he and President Clinton regarded backing for the peace process as "one of our highest foreign policy priorities."

Christopher, describing the Anglo-Irish proposals as "not a blueprint to be imposed" but a basis for negotiations, said: "We ask all parties to this conflict to consider very carefully the text and to move promptly for negotiations."

Bomber blows himself up in Russian embassy in Rabat to protest Chechnya

MOSCOW (AP) - An Islamic terrorist, apparently protesting the war in Chechnya, blew up a bomb yesterday in a suicide attack on the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

The attacker, apparently an Egyptian posing as a tourist, entered the embassy's consular section and set off a bomb he was carrying, the Russian ITAR-Tass

news agency said.

The terrorist was reportedly killed in the explosion. There were no other casualties.

The bomber carried on a small placard with the word "Chechnya" written in Arabic.

Many Moslems across the world have been sympathetic to the plight of fellow believers in Chechnya.

Heavy fighting in Bihac enclave

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Heavy fighting erupted in the Bosnian enclave of Bihac yesterday as rebel Moslems launched infantry and shelling attacks on Bosnian government troops, United Nations peacekeepers said.

"It started at 8:30 this morning and it's still going on," a Bangladeshi UN officer said by telephone from the enclave. "Intense firing is under way."

The fighting was concentrated

some five km south of Velika Kladusa, in the north of the enclave, the officer from a United Nations base in Coralic said.

UN peacekeepers reported mortar, artillery, tank and multiple-barrelled rocket launchers firing around the village of Mala Kladusa, the officer said.

Some 1,000 detonations had been reported by 5 p.m. local, he said.

The clashes followed a lull of several days in which reports spoke of mainly sporadic firing.

Earlier yesterday, UN relief workers had to abandon their nine-truck aid convoy after coming under fire near the front line at Mala Kladusa, officials from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said.

The drivers had to take refuge in UN armored vehicles escorting the convoy, which apparently was not targeted.

The Moslem-led Bosnian government Fifth Corps in the pocket is surrounded by rebel Moslem troops and allied Serb forces from Croatia and Bosnia.

The rebel Moslems, loyal to local businessman-turned-warlord Fikret Abdic, recaptured Kladusa last year with the help of firepower from Croatian Serbs. But Fifth Corps troops have halted their advance south and east of the town.

"We gather Abdic forces have launched an attack on BiH (Bosnian army) lines and there's still fighting going on," the Bangladeshi peacekeeper said.

"Most of the firing is coming from the Abdic side."

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مكتبة القدس

Terje Larsen, the UN's 'Mr. Gaza'

LAMIA LAHOUD



Terje Larsen

THE Villa, as the headquarters of the UN Special Coordinator's office in Gaza is nicknamed, is just across the street from Yasser Arafat's new office and home in Gaza's well-to-do Rimal section, close to the seafont.

There, UN Special Coordinator Terje Larsen, 47, a former Norwegian diplomat who was one of the initiators of the secret talks in Oslo, organizes and coordinates donor aid which is channeled through the existing UN agencies.

His office (UNSCO) also takes care of the funding and training of the Palestinian police force.

While the World Bank pays the salaries of 22,000 PA employees and the PA's running costs, Larsen's office pays the salaries and running costs of 9,000 police.

Larsen meets frequently with the leader of the autonomy whom, he says, refers to him jokingly as his neighbor. Ever since Larsen's involvement in Oslo, Arafat calls him when there is a crisis.

The Hebron massacre was one such crisis. Arafat called Larsen in Oslo at three in the morning and asked him to come immediately to Tunis. There he formulated the proposal for international observers in Hebron which became known as the Larsen plan.

This is how TIPH, the Temporary International Presence in Hebron was born after ten days of tough negotiations between Arafat, Rabin

and the Americans.

"Arafat and I talk about everything, not just politics and economics. We discuss life, food and love," says Larsen with a grin.

Larsen also meets regularly with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres whom he describes as a close personal friend ever since Oslo.

UN SECRETARY General Boutros Boutros-Ghali founded the Special Coordinator's Office and appointed Larsen last June.

The UN wanted to support the peace process through economic development of the autonomy and territories, says Larsen.

He believes one reason Boutros-Ghali appointed him is that the UN Secretary General felt that through his involvement in the Oslo talks he has gained the confidence of both sides and can therefore create a greater role for the UN in the area.

Israel has traditionally distrusted the United Nations and has always tried to minimize its role.

"Before accepting his appointment I insisted that he consult with Peres and Arafat. I was only going to take the job if they accepted and thought I was trustworthy."

"Both supported my appointment," he added. UNSCO started to

operate in Gaza in August last year.

Larsen has fought to create a mechanism for effective local aid coordination with the UN in a key role along side the World Bank.

Larsen is one of 12 UN undersecretaries, six of them based at UN headquarters in New York and the other six in the field in places like Yugoslavia, Somalia, the former Soviet Union - and Gaza and the territories.

He reports directly to Boutros-Ghali and all UN agencies now have to coordinate with Larsen, who has an office in Jerusalem. He is now setting up one in Jericho.

He says he decided to concentrate most UN efforts on Gaza first, since Gaza is the main test.

Success of the development programs in Gaza will largely determine the implementation of the autonomy agreement in the rest of the territories, he says.

IN GAZA, the UN supports over 50 percent of the public sector and about 33 percent in the territories.

Larsen says the Oslo accord is frequently misunderstood.

"The Oslo accord is not a peace agreement, it is a road to peace. The road is difficult and dangerous, but it is the only road."

Larsen has an international staff

The World Bank and the UN - traditional rivals in assisting developing countries - are sitting together on the chair of the local donor coordination committee and share the secretariat of it.

Cooperation is smooth, Larsen says, with praise for the efforts of World Bank representative Odia Knudsen. The creation of the local donor coordination committee was one of Larsen's efforts at the last donor-liaison committee meeting in Brussels in November.

Today much of the donor money is channeled through existing UN agencies.

AT THE last local donors' meeting in Gaza last month, Larsen and the World Bank, in coordination with the donors, created different committees for various fields. The UN agencies hold the secretariats of most of these committees and act as implementing agencies for donors' money.

The UN, in consultation with the donors, is creating a Trust Fund to be held by the UNDP which will channel donor money to UN agencies or to the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDR) for public works projects.

year of active implementation. He believes the new Local Aid Coordination Committee will meet the transparency and accountability donors require.

"In these committees, the donors meet with the Palestinians, the UN, the World Bank and the Israelis and they tell each other what they are doing."

Larsen sees the UN role in financing and training the Palestinian police force as a success.

"When I took the job as special coordinator, my office managed to create a vehicle through which the police force can receive training and funding from donors."

The PA has about 16,000 people employed in the police force and the security services, but only 9,000 are paid for by the UN since the Cairo agreement limits the number to 9,000, says Larsen.

The preventive security services in Gaza and Jericho get their pay from Arafat himself, according to Palestinian sources.

Larsen says the UN wants to make sure Palestinian military officers trained as soldiers in Arab armies are now being trained as modern police officers with democratic values.

The UN therefore offers courses in Human Rights and in "the role of the police in society."

"While an army is being trained for war, a police force must be trained to act in peace times," says Larsen's UN police advisor said.

Iraq blasts US envoy for role in sanctions

LEON BARKHO
BAGHDAD

IRAQ'S vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, lashed out at US Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright this week for trying to block moves to ease sanctions on Iraq.

Ramadan said Albright's tour of UN Security Council member countries showed how isolated Washington had become in the world community.

"The tour undertaken by US Ambassador Madeleine Albright ... really means that the US administration is bankrupt and isolated," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Ramadan as saying.

"The United States is using cheap and lowly means to impose its policies on nations and interfere in their domestic affairs," Ramadan said in a meeting with Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO foreign affairs chief, who is visiting Iraq.

It was the first official Iraqi comment on Albright's tour to counter French and Russian moves to lift the ban on Iraq resuming its once-huge oil exports.

She said this week in Prague that Washington had enough support on the council to block any move to ease the sanctions, which were imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Ramadan said the US administration was "begging [other countries] to realize its avarice and hegemony."

President Saddam Hussein, in remarks published in state-run newspapers, said Iraq had enough power and resources to make the embargo "something of the past."

"The embargo is a weapon in

the hands of the impotent," Saddam said.

The state-run press vilified Albright. The government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* said she was gripped by "hysteria uncommon for a woman of her age."

"We say ... to this old woman with a vicious tongue ... despite your and Clinton's will of evil and barbarism, the sanctions shall be lifted," the paper said.

France, meanwhile, is going ahead with plans to open a diplomatic foothold in Iraq, despite criticism from the US and Britain, officials said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said diplomat Jean-François Nodinet would start duty in Baghdad this week as head of a newly established French interests section.

France has said Nodinet would be the only diplomat in the section, with a small staff under his supervision.

Duque described the move as a "technical step." He said the section would work under the Romanian flag and would deal with unspecified administrative and equipment issues. Russia had previously been handling French interests in Iraq.

Paris has rejected US and British criticism, noting that Washington and London already had established low-level ties with Iraq.

It said an Iraqi interests section has been open in London since 1991 while a US set-up operates under the Polish flag in the former US embassy in Baghdad. However, unlike the new French arrangement, the British and US sections are not manned by any of their own nationals. (Reuters)

Man, boy acquitted of blasphemy flee Pakistan

News agencies
ISLAMABAD

TWO Pakistani Christians facing death threats from militant Moslems after they were acquitted of blasphemy have flown to Germany, airline sources said this week.

Salamat Masih, 14, and Rehmat Masih, 40, whose death sentences were overturned by the Lahore High Court, left Islamabad in secrecy on a Pakistan International Airlines flight to Frankfurt, the sources said.

The pair are not related, despite earlier reports they are uncle and nephew. Masih is a common name among Pakistani Christians.

Officials declined to say where the Masihs were headed. There had been speculation in the Pakistani media that they would go to Europe. Denmark offered them asylum over the weekend.

The Masihs were convicted February 9 of blasphemy, and sentenced to death for allegedly writing anti-Islamic slogans on a village mosque. The High Court in Lahore overturned the verdict for lack of evidence. But Moslem fundamentalists who had closely monitored the case said they would be killed if they were not hanged.

A spokesman at the German Embassy in Islamabad said they had applied for visitor's visas, which had been granted. He could not say whether Germany was their final destination.

A US Embassy spokesman denied a newspaper report that they were on their way to the US, saying: "That's nonsense."

Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said his country was prepared to offer asylum to the two Christians.



In Lahore, activists of Pakistan's Islamic religious parties vow to kill Christians sentenced to hang. (AP)

"And any problem with raising money for the plane ticket can easily be solved," Petersen told Danish Radio.

"The 14-year-old, Salamat Masih, cannot go back to his village and it is probably too dangerous for him to stay in Pakistan. He must be brought to safety abroad," the boy's lawyer, Hina

Jilani, told Danish Radio.

About 100 Pakistani human rights activists staged a silent demonstration outside Parliament to demand repeal of the blasphemy law under which the Christians were sentenced.

"Religion teaches peace, not murder," read one placard held by a demonstrator. Others band-

ed out leaflets which said: the plight of minorities posed a threat to Pakistan's legitimacy.

"All of us citizens should raise our voice against the growing intolerance and bigotry in this society," it said.

A third Christian, Manzoor Masih, accused of blasphemy in the same incident, was shot dead

outside a Lahore court in April 1994. Salamat Masih and Rehmat Masih were wounded in the attack.

Another Christian, Gul Masih, who had a death sentence for blasphemy overturned by the Lahore High Court in a separate case last year, took refuge in Germany after his release.

Lebanon's Christians now feel like the underdogs

SAMIR F. GHATTAS
JOUNIEH

A brutal church bombing has rekindled sectarian divisions across postwar Lebanon that remain politically sensitive a year later.

The blast at Notre Dame de la Deliverance Church on February 27, 1994, left 11 dead and 60 wounded. It sparked a state crackdown against right-wing Christians.

That culminated in the outlawing of the Christian Lebanese Forces, the largest Christian militia of the civil war, and the arrest of its leader, Samir Geagea.

Authorities claim Geagea ordered the bombing to restart the war and set up a Christian mini-state northeast of Beirut. He says the government framed him.

But accusations by both sides underline the deep divisions that have plagued Lebanon for decades, and largely contributed to the eruption of the civil war.

Before the 1975-90 war, Moslems resented Christian supremacy. Nowadays, it is the Christians who lament being underdogs.

Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, spiritual head of Lebanon's one million Maronite Catholics, contends the crackdown has heightened Christian frustration with the regime.

"The trials target people while others of their like are being ig-

nored," complained Sfeir, the gray-bearded head of the Maronite Church, named a cardinal by Pope John Paul II last year.

Sfeir attacks the government even though President Elias Hrawi is a Maronite and Christians, although a minority, are equally represented in the cabinet and parliament with the Moslems.

Since a 1989 national reconciliation accord that ended the conflict, the Christians have been increasingly depressed by the loss of their grip on power.

Much of the president's authority has been transferred to the cabinet, which is headed by a Sunni Moslem prime minister. The parliament speaker is traditionally a Shi'ite Moslem.

The Maronites, the largest Christian sect in Lebanon, had dominated the government, parliament, judiciary and army since independence from France in 1943.

Christians were thought to be the majority then. Now, they make up about 45 percent of Lebanon's population of 4 million.

Geagea's trial began in November and continues to drag on amid allegations of irregularities.

The government maintains that it treats the country's 17 religious sects equally. (AP)

Abdel-Meguid gears up for inter-Arab reconciliation talks

ARAB League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid visited Amman this week for talks with Jordanian leaders on a league council meeting slated for March.

Abdel-Meguid, a former foreign minister of Egypt, discussed prospects for convening an Arab

summit, the first after his 22-nation league was split over the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, government officials said.

The officials said Abdel-Meguid also sought to arrange a meeting between the foreign ministers of Jordan and Kuwait on the fringes of the March 22

meeting in Cairo of the Arab League council.

Abdel-Meguid urged inter-Arab reconciliation and said efforts in that regard were continuing.

"My visit is a chance to exchange views on the present Arab situation, all that concerns us re-

garding speeding up peace talks and the recent development on the Arab region," he said.

"Arab League efforts for [Jordanian-Kuwaiti] reconciliation] are continuing ... and we will not spare any effort in this regard, and I think it will take some time but the seed for the reconciliation

exists," he said.

Jordan now chairs the rotating presidency of the council and Abdel-Meguid's visit, his second since assuming office in May 1991, was officially labeled as part of preparations for the Cairo meeting.

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Bonfire of vanities

DISASTER it may be, but there is something majestically surreal in the story of the collapse of the venerable Barings Bank in England - as there is in the entire esoteric world of international futures and option markets. That one 28-year-old sitting in an office in Singapore should be able to bet the capital value of a 260-year-old London bank on the turn of a stock market dice - and lose - is a plot that would get the average author shown the door in any publishing house.

While the world was still gasping over the initial story that the trader had wiped out some \$350 million owned by Britain's oldest investment bank, the Bank of England governor announced that the financial meltdown was only beginning. One billion dollars had already been lost and young Nick Leeson had taken unauthorized trading positions worth a staggering \$27b.

While many people assumed that the rampant market greed of the 1980s junk bond and yuppie era - immortalized in Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* - had passed, there were enough experts around to say "we told you so" as the bonfire of one man's vanities swept through the world's stock markets.

The furor here over the recent fall in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange shares paled into insignificance in the glow of burning world markets but the repercussions of the worst international banking crisis in 11 years on market confidence are likely to be felt here as everywhere. Many will feel that the Barings saga again raises the question of what is "real" money and what isn't. In essence Leeson was trading in paper instruments - derivatives - few outside his specialized world understand. To the old-fashioned and uninitiated, the buying and selling of options and futures bears little relationship to the concrete world of plant, buildings, materials and hard cash. At least, they appear to mean nothing, until a collapse like Barings suddenly translates these paper instruments into lost cash, receiverships, vanishing jobs, and bailiffs coming for the furniture.

Neither is it merely the person in the street or in non-financial fields who is at a loss to understand what is going on. One of the shocking facts to emerge from the flood of interviews in the wake of the crash is that many of the bank professionals supposed to be monitoring people like Leeson are themselves woefully ignorant in this brave new world. That appears to be the equivalent of nuclear power plant supervisors not understanding how a chain reaction works.

One American investment expert was not at all fazed when an incredulous journalist asked

how one so young could be entrusted with so much of other people's money. "Twenty-eight is old in this job," he countered. "Most high fliers are totally burned out by 30." The same is true of combat fighter pilots - with a major difference. They do not have the livelihoods of thousands of people in their hands and it has always been recognized that their useful, youthful exuberance must be tightly disciplined and extensively supervised.

This appears to be the crux of the matter. While pinning the scapegoat label on one young man makes a great news story, he is not the only player who should be running for cover. If these whizz-kids are encouraged in their lust for money by huge bonuses for hot results, it is because their employers never complain when they turn in profits by the millions on their razor-thin dealing margins. There is more than a touch of hypocrisy afoot when the same employers howl when one of the wonder boys goes over the razor's edge.

Leeson was indeed a successful market player and he was well rewarded for it with a salary close to half a million dollars and prospects of a few million dollars in bonuses in a good year. But it is a job of enormous pressures. A lapse of concentration or aggression for a second can mean missing a ripple in a far-away market worth millions. This makes it a job that should also require enormous supervision. Yet it already appears Leeson's wild tangent left the circle of reliability as far back as December.

Using options sales to gamble on Japan's Nikkei stock index, he bet on how volatile the market would be in coming months. He got it disastrously wrong and started to lose a staggering \$2 million on every single point the Nikkei fell below 18,500 - and fell it did in January. He poured commitments into futures contracts in a bid to nudge the index back up, and failed. Either it was a mistake born of desperation, or a yet unproven malicious act. In either case, one can only wonder where were the supervising managers who should have been poring over daily reports and stepping in to say "enough already."

Yet this is not the first disaster in the new and volatile world of electronically traded options and futures in the past year. The respected Wall Street brokerage firm Kidder Peabody and Co. collapsed after a trader falsified profit returns to cover losses. The bankruptcy of Orange County, California, is likewise blamed on derivatives trading. Three disasters are enough alarm bells sounding a warning to international regulators that something is dangerously wrong.

Fair exchanges



Poverty isn't the problem

MORTON A. KLEIN

A number of governments are rushing substantial sums of money to the PLO, in the belief that poverty in the Gaza Strip is threatening Middle East peace. According to this theory, when the Palestinian Arabs in the self-rule areas begin to "enjoy the fruits of peace," they will support peaceful coexistence with Israel.

But is poverty the real threat to Middle East peace? Prof. Amos Perlmutter of American University, editor of the prestigious *Journal of Strategic Studies*, recently wrote that "The real source of conflict in the Gaza Strip is not poverty or the horrible economy... [It] is the rise of Hamas, which is a radical, nationalistic and decidedly rejectionist movement... dedicated to the destruction of the peace and the eventual formation of Complete Palestine [in place of Israel]."

A recent editorial in *The Jerusalem Post* likewise pointed out that "there is no reason to believe that money would... persuade Palestinians to coexist with Israel... Americans are particularly aware of the limitations of financial aid in resolving social and political problems. Throwing staggering amounts of government and private funds at inner-city slums, the drug problem and affirmative action for minorities has done little to ameliorate intractable problems. It is even less likely that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be reduced to materialist terms. The intolerance in the Arab world for Israel's existence... is mostly religiously and nationalistically inspired."

The historical record certainly

seems to support this view. During the 1920s and 1930s, for example, Jewish immigration to Palestine brought the country a variety of economic improvements, including new jobs for many Arabs - and yet there were repeated Arab pogroms against the Jews. Nor were the pogromists necessarily the most impoverished of the Arabs. Accounts of the 1921 pogroms in Jaffa, for example, described the

Money will not solve the Arab-Israeli conflict

violence as having been initiated by "a howling horde led by uniformed [Arab] policemen."

Did other Arab violence, such as the 1929 massacre or the thousands of attacks from 1936 to 1939 also stem from poverty? Were the Arab wars against Israel fought for economic reasons?

If poverty in Gaza is the root of violence, why was there no violent mass uprising there in 1949-57, when Egypt occupied the area? The Arabs in Gaza were impoverished during the period of Israeli administration, 1967-94, yet the intifada didn't begin until 1987, after 20 years of Israeli rule. There was no sudden increase in poverty to explain this; indeed, the UN Environmental Program has cited Israel for social improvements in Gaza and the other territories during the years of its administration.

AMERICANS have good reason to be concerned about how the

PLO will use foreign donations. Britain's Overseas Development Agency recently sent \$5 million to pay the salaries of 9,000 PLO policemen, with specific instructions that none of the money be given to Arafat's plainclothes "preventive security forces" - yet more than \$500,000 was given to those forces, prompting a British government investigation. Meanwhile, Norway's attorney-general and a UN oversight committee are investigating the disappearance of a \$100,000 Norwegian grant for a PLO agricultural project.

In December 1994, the nonpartisan Israeli organization Peace Watch, which monitors Israeli and PLO compliance with the peace accords, recently reported that \$16 million in international contributions that were supposed to go for humanitarian projects in Gaza and Jericho had been diverted to PLO military and propaganda activities in Lebanon.

As Republican Senator Richard Shelby, co-chairman of the Peace Accord Monitoring Group in the US Senate, recently pointed out, increasing numbers of Americans look at the PLO's rule in Gaza and "wonder why we should be pouring money into a sinkhole of deepening chaos and disorder."

Devoted to ideologies of extreme Arab nationalism (the PLO factions) or extremist Islam (Hamas), Palestinian Arabs reject the concept of a sovereign non-Muslim state in the Moslem Middle East. Giving them American or European taxpayers' dollars won't change that.

The writer is National President of the Zionist Organization of America.

Summer time...

YOSEF GOELL

SUMMER daylight saving time is one of the strangest bones of contention between Orthodox and secular Jews.

Interior ministers from the religious parties have long insisted that summer time be restricted to the four months or so between Pesach - which usually falls deep into April - and the Hebrew month of Elul, which precedes the High Holy Days, in what is still the height of summer.

The usual rationale is that a small number of elderly observant Sephardim, who rise early for *shihot* penitential prayers in

When the living ain't easy for those who like their mornings cool and their evenings light

Elul, find it difficult to get to work on time if the late sunrise of summer time is still in effect.

Many secular Israelis have long viewed the decision to limit summer time to four months or so as an arbitrary wielding of power by religious politicians.

The interest of the large majority clearly revolves around the sea and the beaches, going to work and school in the cool morning hours and prolonging daylight well into the evening. Many have demanded that summer time be extended to seven or eight months, from March till October, as is the case even in many cooler parts of the globe.

THE FINAL defection of Shas from the Rabin government provides a golden opportunity for the new minister of the interior, Uzi Baran, to court some badly needed popularity at small cost.

Baran understands that he is a caretaker minister, and that he is not to effect a revolution that could drive Shas into irrevocable opposition.

But summer time is so marginal and nonideological an issue that it can be expected to antagonize few religious or even haredi voters. Most secular and Zionist Orthodox voters would be grateful for the extension.

Early this month would seem to be the deadline for the new minister to announce such a decision.

Not only is it doubtful that any modern Orthodox Israel would suffer in any way from an extension of summer time, but there have also been reports that a growing number of haredim have shifted the hours of their *shihot* prayers during Elul.

Many rabbis are said to be opposed to the prolongation of summer time until October - and over the High Holy Days - because they fear that late sunsets would encourage secular hedonists intent on beginning their Saturday nights out early to desecrate the Sabbath.

This is a strange argument, since no amount of fiddling with the clock is going to induce non-believers into becoming Sabbath-observers.

Orthodox insistence on axing summer time in August only intensifies the abhorrence many secular Israelis feel for anything that smacks of religion or the rabbinate.

The best way to solve the differences over summer time - no emotion-laden, secular-versus-religious issue, but a question of popular convenience - would be to submit the entire question to a national referendum.

This could serve as a perfect example of the sort of issue that should be submitted to a vote of the people.

It would be all the more desirable as a testing ground for the technique of referendum, to which Prime Minister Rabin has committed himself on the question of withdrawal from the Golan, in the event of a deal with Syrian President Assad.

The writer comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LITHUANIA'S NAZIS

Sir, - According to the Lithuanian Republic's law "On the restoration of rights of persons repressed for resistance to occupational regimes" which was passed on May 2, 1990, the government of Lithuania rehabilitated more than 50,000 Lithuanians; about 10,000 of them were repressed by the Soviets for resistance from June 15, 1940, till June 22, 1941, to the prewar Soviet occupation of Lithuania and another 10,000 for resistance after the end of 1944 to the postwar Soviet occupation of Lithuania. There is nothing wrong with these two series of rehabilitation.

But to whose occupation did the rest of rehabilitated Lithuanians - some 30,000 of them - resist from June 23, 1941, till the end of 1944? During that period there was only one occupier of Lithuania - the Germans. Not a single person who was repressed for resistance to the German occupation of Lithuania during World War II was rehabilitated.

HAREDI LIFE-STYLE

Sir, - As a secular Jew, I see nothing wrong with the plans of the haredim to establish "housing sales monitoring committees," as mentioned by Yosef Goell in his article of February 17. These are intended to prevent dilution of the haredi atmosphere by secular families moving into their neighborhoods.

Let's face it: Israeli domestic life is being ravaged by such social scourges as drugs, sexual permissiveness, rampant homosexuality and TV-inspired crime. Is it any wonder then that people should seek to shield their children from these calamities?

As a secular Israeli, I feel helpless to contain these influences. However, if the haredim can lick them for the benefit of their families by monitoring neighborhood home sales, then I say, more power to them, regardless of their strange religious practices!

HELEN GOLAN

Givatayim.

DISPARITY OF TREATMENT

Sir, - I was startled to read in *The Jerusalem Post* of February 15, under the heading "Tibi won't be charged," that Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab citizen "received special treatment and was not fingerprinted as is normal with suspects in such cases." Tibi was questioned about participating in an illegal demonstration in Eilat and having hit a soldier, as well as claims that he incited Arabs to riot on that occasion.

Contrast this treatment of Tibi with the conduct of the police with regard to their recent incarceration of seven women in Green, all Jewish Israeli citizens, during a legal vigil held by them outside the Prime Minister's Office on the day of the Beit Lid massacre. The women, and I was one of them, were fingerprinted and mug shots taken of each of us as suspected criminals. The special kid-glove handling of Tibi we women in Green did not receive. Is there a ready explanation for this disparity of treatment, Mr. Shalal?

RUTH MATAR

Jerusalem.

PORNOGRAPHIC FILTH

Sir, - *Kol Hakavod* to Judy Siegel-Itzkovich for her powerful article of February 12 exposing the flood of pornography which is now engulfing our Hebrew press. One cannot open most of the daily or weekly papers without finding a disgusting array of pornographic material hitting us in the face.

Is this the kind of Jewish country that we had hoped for? What a crazy country this is. On the one hand we have a hidebound fundamentalist segment of our population which cries out against a picture at Yad Vashem of three naked women a minute before they are murdered by the Nazis, and on the other hand, our "liberal" elements are completely indifferent to this pornography in the Hebrew press.

We all know about "freedom of the press," but can't something be done about this filth?

T.D. FISHER

Tel Aviv.

INHUMAN TREATMENT

Sir, - I have read the articles for and against the use of the photographs of the Nazi selection process. As a survivor of the Holocaust, I personally went through this forced process many, many times at Auschwitz. I find it very difficult to understand why, after 50 years, an objection should be raised by people who really have no notion of what went on.

I cannot agree with Mr. A. Ravitz (February 10) that the victims would not want their photos displayed. Modesty never came into it, as we had to parade naked before Dr. Mengele sometimes twice daily. I personally feel no objection to the use of these photos in order to give people an idea of the inhuman treatment we suffered at the hands of the Nazis and to ensure that people do not forget.

I hope the directors of Yad Vashem will not tamper with the original evidence of this horrendous period.

Netanya.

S. NEWTON

Reapportion aid to Egypt

MITCHELL G. BARD

ONE of the places that US budget cutters have looked first is the foreign assistance account. And since a disproportionate amount of money is given to Egypt and Israel, those countries have naturally come under scrutiny. In the case of Egypt in particular, the current mix of aid is completely unrelated to US interests or Egyptian needs.

As the most populous and influential Arab nation, Egypt plays a key role in the Middle East. One of the great successes of US foreign policy in the last two decades has been to bring the country into the pro-Western camp (though Egypt votes against the US 80 percent of the time at the UN). That said, particular attention needs to be paid to Egypt because it is a powder keg.

The population continues to explode, while imports of food skyrocket and unemployment worsens. The misery created by these problems is exploited by radical fundamentalists who have threatened the government for decades. In the last few years, insurrections by President Mubarak's Islamic opponents have caused increasing concern about his longevity.

Given the importance of Egypt, the US has a definite interest in providing assistance. Currently, however, most of its efforts have been devoted to helping Egypt build up its military, something it has been doing for 15 years with little justification. After all, Egypt isn't facing any serious external threat. The sophisticated tanks and planes the US has been selling Egypt will be of no more use to Mubarak than they would have been to the Shah of Iran in the event of an internal rebellion.

Egypt now receives \$1.3 billion in military assistance and \$815m. in economic aid. What Egyptians

need, however, is the latter. As with many Third World countries, this is money the US will not see again. In 1990, the Bush administration acknowledged this by forgiving Egypt's \$7b. debt. Still, economic aid to Egypt could be increased to the \$1.2b. Israel gets, and American taxpayers still would save nearly \$1b. that is otherwise wasted on military aid.

WHAT IS the impediment to taking such a step? Ironically, it isn't the nonexistent Egypt lobby, but the Israeli one.

Most aid to Egypt is given to pacify Cairo's jealousy of American largesse toward Israel. After unsuccessful administration attempts to woo Egypt to the US's side for more than 20 years, it is understandable that recent presidents would be fearful of alienating Mubarak.

The Israeli lobby, which fears that its own aid could be cut if Egypt's is touched, is the most opposed to the idea. The two nations' aid levels have been informally linked since they signed a peace treaty, and both have quietly worked together to maintain current levels of funding.

But the military assistance program for Israel stands on its own merits.

Unlike Egypt, Israel does face serious external threats. Unlike Egypt, it must continue to build up its forces to maintain its ever-narrowing qualitative advantage over Arab armies which grow with almost no constraints each year. And, unlike Egypt, Israel shares the US's interests and values.

The Israeli lobby also believes, quite rightly, that Arab nations need to see that US financial benefits can be obtained by making peace. But this is actually a

good reason to cut military aid to Egypt, because the US doesn't want Jordan, Syria or Lebanon to expect that they will reap a windfall in arms transfers by making peace with Israel. They should see, rather, that it is good relations and reasonable economic assistance that is forthcoming to nations that support US interests.

By cutting military aid to Egypt, the need to make large cuts elsewhere in the foreign aid budget would be reduced. This should take the pressure off Israel, and possibly free some money for other nations.

It is certainly worth a billion dollars to keep Cairo at peace with Israel, but the money would be far better spent on Egypt's domestic needs.

Should a radical Islamic regime come to power in Egypt, the US and Israel would be confronted by an opponent possessing some of America's most sophisticated weapons and a large, capable fighting force.

By helping Egyptians to overcome their dire social and economic problems, the prospect of discontent reaching the point where that might happen can be reduced.

The writer is a foreign policy analyst in Washington and author of *The Water's Edge and Beyond: Defining the Limits to Domestic Influence on US Middle East Policy*.

POSTSCRIPTS

THERE ARE going to be some very irritated prisoners in Texas come March 1. That's the date the state's 95,000 inmates will have to heed a smoking ban throughout the penal system.

The unanimous vote by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice followed two hours of debate over issues including whether to

allow Death Row inmates a last cigarette before their executions and whether the smoking ban would spark riots. One official said he anticipated inmate lawsuits challenging the ban.

"We're not operating the Ritz-Carlton," said one board member.

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He brought the ghosts back to Berlin's Jewish quarter

A California artist's projections of Berlin's former Jewish residents can now be seen in Tel Aviv, Helen Kaye reports

THE transparent images of people and places long gone project a ghostly, poignant resonance into the present. They are photographs of the installations artist/photographer Shimon Attie set up in Berlin in the winter of 1991.

He had gone to Berlin that summer, and as he walked the streets of the city, "the questions reverberated over and over. What had become of the Jewish culture and community that had once flourished there?"

The *Writing on the Wall*, currently at Beit Hatefutsoth in Tel Aviv, was the answer. Attie sorted through hundreds of pre-World War II photographs taken in the Scheunenviertel, the old Jewish quarter of Berlin, and then slide-projected them at or near their original sites for a year.

Passersby and present residents of the quarter, now a shabby part of the former East Berlin, saw the projections over the course of one or two evenings and reacted. At first, Attie said, their reactions "were mostly positive and then as the year went by, people became more and more negative. Maybe it was because the winter was very cold, or because the economic situation was deteriorating..."

Maybe it was because of the subject matter, those long-dead Jews. Attie recalls that one man living in an apartment building that bore one of the projections threatened to call the police "because he was afraid his neighbors would think he was Jewish."

Another time, he said, a man came running out of his house screaming, "I bought this place fair and square from Mr. Jacob in 1938," and that went out live on German TV because we were there with a crew that night.

Then there was the man who leaned out of his fourth-floor window and shouted to Attie that if he didn't leave immediately, he would pour a bucket of water on

him and the equipment—and did. There were also the other reactions, like the man who hesitantly stopped by Attie in the street to say his grandfather, deported to Auschwitz, had lived in the quarter. Attie said a 17-year-old active in promoting Israel/German friendship in his school became a "sort of groupie for a few nights, going with me from site to site."

Attie is a tall, handsome 37-year-old with a wide and embracing smile. He grew up in Los Angeles in a family that had, he said, a very strong Jewish identity, but was not Zionist. But that didn't stop him from coming here in 1975 with a Hashomer Hatza'ir group. The Hebrew he learned during his year as a volunteer in Kibbutz Shoval comes back to him every time he visits, about every two years or so.

His father's family had immigrated from Syria and his mother's family came from Germany. Both parents, however, were American born. Inheriting his mother's musical gifts, Attie studied classical piano and violin, but got frustrated "when my fingers wouldn't obey me." He said some friends introduced him to photography, and he thought it could be a way to bypass "those troublesome fingers."

Then, despite having earned a master's degree in psychology, Attie went to art school in San Francisco. His first exhibition, in Los Angeles, was a series of 27 life-size nude studies of his father which impressed the critics.

From the beginning, Attie said, he used photography to illustrate ideas "which gradually evolved into [exploration] of memory and history."

"When I went to Berlin in 1991, I had no clear idea of what I wanted to do except that it had to do with memory, and the installations resulted from feeling that Jewish presence all around me but not seeing it."

Attie lives in San Francisco and



Berliners grew increasingly angry at Shimon Attie's projections — in the winter of 1991 — of its long-gone residents.

(Beth Hatefutsoth)

in Berlin, but in Berlin "I really live out of a suitcase because I don't accept the fact that [as a Jew] I'm living there."

"There's something very compelling about being in a place that's wrong for you. I'm always

on edge when I'm in Berlin."

Nonetheless, that edge is good for creating his installations. At Beth Hatefutsoth, there is also a reproduction of part of the slide installations he did at the Hamburg and Dresden railway sta-

tions where he projected portraits of deported, dead Jews onto the tracks, trains and walls.

The Berlin Jewish Museum is planning a permanent Attie installation. Last year he had exhibitions at both the New York and

Berlin Museums of Modern Art. At present, he is involved in creating installations in Amsterdam, Cracow, Copenhagen and Cologne. They have to do with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II but also with cur-

rent issues, such as immigration and rising xenophobia.

Attie considers himself politically aware, "but I don't like political or didactic art. The esthetic component is what makes it more powerful."

In the Reagan Library: See under Religious Matters, Jewish

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

AS president Ronald Reagan warmed up for his reelection campaign in 1984, his staff prepared a four-page memo on fielding likely domestic policy questions from critical Jewish audiences.

Sample Question 6 read: "There are no Jews in your cabinet and very few among the upper echelons of the White House staff. Do you intend to bring on more Jews as official advisers if you are reelected?" In the hypothetical answer to the hypothetical question, the president would admonish his interlocutor that his administration "does not make appointments on the basis of race, religion, sex or origin ... [but] it values the contributions made by Jewish appointees."

The memo, one of the items buried in the Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, seems to confirm that while the Reagan administration maintained a civil discourse with the overwhelmingly Democratic Jewish community, the relationship lacked the enthusiasm and intimacy of the Kennedy or Roosevelt years.

Yet even a brief visit to the Library/Museum, in the town of Simi Valley about an hour's drive from Los Angeles, shows that the 40th president took pride in his response to some Jewish concerns.

In the Voices of Freedom Gallery, Reagan's efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewish refuseniks are emphasized. One glass case holds a letter from Ludmila Volvosky, thanking Reagan for interceding for her husband, Dr. Leonid Volvosky.

Chiseled in a flanking wall are

the names of 23 prisoners of conscience from around the world. Prominent are the names of other refuseniks, permitted to leave for Israel after Reagan's intercession with Mikhail Gorbachev.

In another part of the museum, devoted to Reagan's foreign policy achievements, prominently pictured are his meetings with prime minister Shimon Peres in 1986 and prime minister Yitzhak Shamir in 1988.

Still awaiting scrutiny are 50 million pages of documents, stretching some 7,800 meters, on the Reagan presidency. Only seven million of the pages have been cataloged so far, but most of the rest can now be requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), following the mandatory five-year waiting period after the end of Reagan's tenure in 1989.

Archivist Catherine Sewell noted that a large number of FOIA requests arrived after the death of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, looking for past correspondence and contacts with the White House by the Lubavitcher Rebbe and his followers.

But even a casual walk-in can yield some insights. After a quick search, Sewell came up with three folders under "RM [Religious Matters] 032 - Jewish."

The folders yielded the four-page "Briefing book for Jewish audiences" from 1984, mentioned earlier. It is striking that most of the concerns raised are again near the top of the Jewish agenda today, following the Republican congressional sweep.

Perhaps nothing better illustrates the complexity of the



New York Habad rabbis present president Ronald Reagan with a silver hanukkah. (White House)

White House bureaucracy, worthy at times of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, than the case of the chief rabbis.

On October 11, 1983, Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations,

dispatched a letter to Michael Gale, associate director for Jewish Affairs of the White House Office of Public Liaison. In the letter, Berman noted that two recently elected chief rabbis of Israel were traveling to the US and would like to pay their respects to

the president.

One week later, Faith Ryan Whittlesey, assistant to the president, Office of Public Liaison, sent a memo to Frederick Ryan,

Jr., director of appointments and scheduling. She suggested a photo opportunity with the two rabbis, Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapira, on November 7 in the Oval Office.

Such a meeting, Whittlesey wrote, "would be very well received by the American Jewish community, particularly the more religious segment."

Under "Outline of the Event," the memo described the proposed scenario: "The Chief Rabbis enter the Oval Office, shake the President's hand, a photo is taken. The President welcomes them to the United States and mentions our close ties with Israel, their country, and bids them farewell and a safe and productive visit to the United States."

On October 20, Ryan sent a memo, attaching the Whittlesey and Berman notes, to Robert McFarlane, assistant to the president for National Security Affairs, asking for his recommendation on the photo op request.

McFarlane passed the buck on this sensitive international initiative to Geoffrey Kemp, director of the Near East and South Asia Affairs Directorate of the Na-

tional Security Council.

In a somewhat cryptic footnote, McFarlane indicated that "if positive" (presumably the answer to the request), "Poin-dexter" was to send a memo to Ryan, but "if negative," Robert Kimmitt, a lawyer with four different titles on the NSC, was to memo Ryan.

The photo request was apparently turned down, as indicated by a Kimmitt-to-Ryan memo on October 27, and a "REGRET" rubber stamp on one of the missives.

Nonetheless, on November 3, the State Department notified McFarlane at the White House that the Israeli Embassy had requested an appointment for the two chief rabbis. The State Department noted that both rabbis "command great respect in Israel and the American Jewish community," and, "since neither speaks English, the Israeli Embassy will provide an interpreter."

At that time, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Israeli Embassy said it had not been involved in planning meetings for the two chief rabbis.

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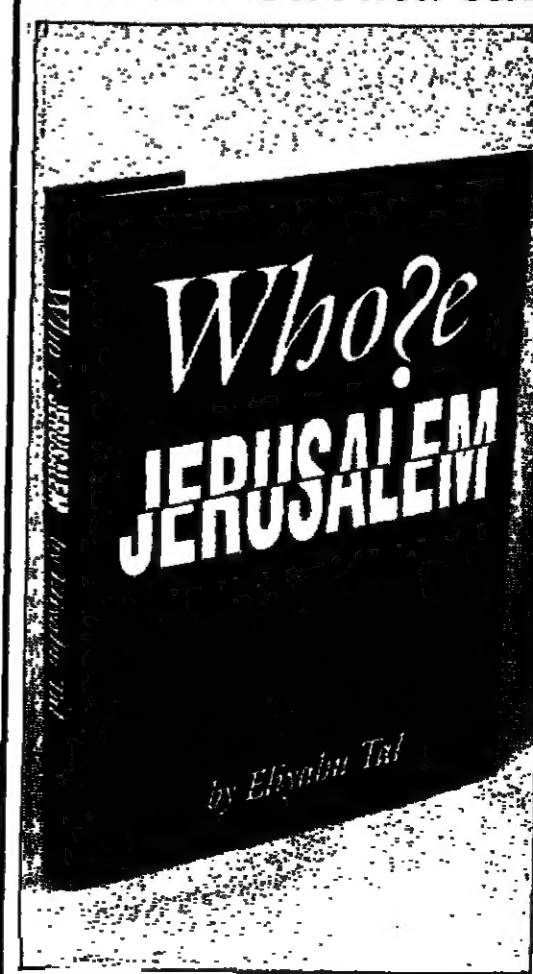
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1995

Poll: State tinkering increases worries of provident fund savers

THE government's latest moves to calm a jumpy capital market, have instead increased the worries of provident fund savers, a Kol Yisrael-Gallup Poll revealed yesterday.

According to the poll, half of provident fund members said the recent measures increased their worries, while only 10 percent said they were reassured.

Nine percent of those polled said they took out all their money from provident funds and another 11 percent responded they were planning to pull out their money. By contrast, 71 percent said they would leave their money in the funds, while 9 percent did not know what they would do.

Another poll, conducted by the Geocartography survey, said 13 percent of the public have withdrawn all their provident fund

JOSE ROSENFELD

savings in the last few months, while another 7 percent have withdrawn most of it.

Gallup (Israel) president Ya'acov Levy said most of the people taking money out of the funds are middle income. "This is the funds' hard-core membership," he noted.

Although, the government did not succeed in restoring the provident fund savers' faith in the market, it reassured the bond market, which continued its recovery from last week's slump.

The market yesterday received a shot in the arm from the Bank of Israel's tender to purchase from the public NIS 250 million in government bonds with maturities of five years or longer in order to reduce excess supply and

stabilize prices.

The public responded with proposals totaling NIS 908 million, nearly four times more than the tender.

In the end, the central bank only purchased NIS 223.5m. in long-term bonds at market prices and lower.

Bank of Israel monetary department director David Klein explained that the purpose of the tender was to provide cash to provident funds that had a large number of redemptions.

The central bank chose to go ahead with the tender on the last day of the month since the funds will have to pay out on the first of the month all the withdrawal requests it received throughout the previous month.

Galit Lipkis Beck contributed to this report.

Police hunt for Barings trader as buyers seek bank's juiciest parts

LONDON (Reuter) - Fallout from the spectacular Barings bankruptcy spanned the globe yesterday as Asian police frantically hunted for the man behind the collapse and Western buyers picked over the corpse of Britain's oldest merchant bank.

Dutch and US commercial bankers swept into London, hoping to profit from Barings' demise and snap up those parts of the investment house not crippled by a rash young Londoner who brought the 233-year-old bank to its knees.

A major German bidder was also considered a front-runner to buy a slice of Barings.

As for 28-year-old Nick Leeson, the man behind the \$27-billion bet that toppled Barings - no word.

Neighbors in Singapore said the London-born trader had disappeared on Thursday with his wife.

The only trace was a pile of

papers on the couple's abandoned doormat - and a flood of rumored sightings in hotels and watering holes stretching from Kuala Lumpur to Bangkok.

Singapore investigators searched Leeson's luxury home yesterday as police in neighboring Malaysia circulated a description throughout the country.

With a luxury yacht at his disposal and a cunning that crippled his company, fellow traders were betting the cocksure trader could stay at large for days - or longer.

Police were working overtime to turn those bets into money-losers. But it is not only police on Leeson's trail - and nor is he the lone culprit, according to Barings' boss.

Peter Baring told the *Financial Times* that Leeson may have been encouraged to bring down the firm. He said the fraud may have stretched over a year and speculated someone could have approached Leeson with a plan to

profit from wrecking the bank.

Blue-blooded Barings' fall from grace has gripped popular imagination, in a financial debacle reminiscent of the rough-and-tumble 1980s that few dreamed could return so soon.

Its collapse initially ricocheted through world financial markets on Monday, but traders regained their footing yesterday when relative calm returned.

Barings was deemed water-tight as recently as Friday, but a frantic weekend rescue attempt by the Bank of England failed to resuscitate the grand old British bank from Leeson's exploits.

Nobody can say exactly how much Barings stands to lose, since Leeson's penchant for derivatives - intricate bets on the future direction of prices - have not yet run their course, and losses depend on the health of Japanese stock prices in March.

Although the full losses are far from clear, court-appointed ad-

ministrators said rival banks were showing keen interest.

ABN AMRO of the Netherlands, and America's Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch emerged as front-runners.

Banking sources said ABN has joined Merrill in dispatching executives to London to discuss bids for the juiciest parts.

A spokesman for Germany's Dresdner Bank said his firm was watching the situation with attention - a tight-lipped reaction that market watchers deemed interesting.

In Britain, too, the big banks were also saying little publicly but the big names National Westminster and Barclays, along with London-based HSBC, are all expected to be seriously looking at Barings' operations.

"There is going to be enough demand for the administrators and Barings to get a good price for what is basically a very sound business," said one analyst.

Shekem posts NIS 53m. net loss

Galit Lipkis Beck

SHEKEM yesterday reported a fourth quarter net loss of NIS 53.2 million, compared with a net loss of NIS 6.7m. in the corresponding period last year.

The company completed the year with a net loss of NIS 57.54m., more than double the NIS 27.36m. loss registered in 1993.

Elco bought the company from the government in December.

"The company's new management has formulated and started to implement a reorganizational plan, which is expected to cost NIS 28 million and is included in the accounts," according to the firm's financial statement.

Revenues fell 1.7 percent in the fourth quarter to NIS 275.4m. Last year revenues rose 2.3 percent to NIS 1.13 billion from NIS 1.1b.

In the reported quarter, operating losses swelled to NIS 22.6m. from NIS 3.6m.

Management blamed the increase on the drop in Shekem's gross profit margins and increase in sales, management and general costs.

Last year operating losses increased to NIS 45m. from NIS 21.2m.

"The rise in operating losses were mainly a result of the drop in the gross profit margin from 20.9 percent in 1993 to 18.9 percent in 1994, and also the fall in income from commissions and services," the company said.

Net financing expenses fell to NIS 600,000 in the fourth quarter from NIS 700,000.

The company ended the year with a drop in net financing income to NIS 2.2m. from NIS 3.8m.

Mercantile Discount Bank suffers 17% fall in net profits

Galit Lipkis Beck

MERCANTILE Discount Bank's annual net earnings plunged 17 percent to NIS 39.4 million last year from NIS 47.5m. in 1993, mainly as a result of a rise in provisions for doubtful debts.

Annualized net return on equity reached 5.9 percent at the end of the year.

The bank reported a decrease in fourth quarter net profits to NIS 12.35m. from NIS 15.4m. in the same quarter of 1993.

Mercantile general manager Moshe Gavish blamed the drop in earnings on the rise in provisions for doubtful debts, particularly in the fourth quarter.

Provisions for doubtful debts increased to NIS 34.57m. last year from NIS 19.98m. In the fourth quarter, provisions more

than tripled to NIS 12.65m. from NIS 4m.

"The rise in provisions reflects a drop in the value of securities given on portfolios, mainly as a result of the fall in the value of stocks traded on the exchange," Gavish said. "It takes time to annualize accounts and make up for the fall in the value of the securities."

A 5.7 percent rise in operating and other expenditures to NIS 239.08m. from NIS 226.11m. also had a negative influence on earnings.

Management said there was an improvement in most of the other profit and loss account clauses.

Last year profit from financing activity before provision for

doubtful debts increased 3.2 percent to NIS 229.46m. from NIS 222.41m.

Management attributed the rise to the expansion of the bank's activities, which was reflected in an increase in credit to the building, commerce and households sectors, as well as to the opening of two new branches.

Gavish said Mercantile plans to continue to expand its activities this year, with the opening of four new branches, expansion of its mortgage business and improvement of its foreign currency division.

"We started to offer mortgages in February in four of our branches - Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Netanya," Gavish said. "By the end of this year, we hope to open mortgage tenders in



Gavish: Blames drop in profit on rise in provisions for doubtful debts. (Roni Benjamin)

eight to 10 of our branches."

The bank's revenues from ordinary and other activities increased 4.7 percent to NIS 126.92m. from NIS 121.2m.

Mercantile's total assets increased 12.8 percent last year to NIS 6.54b.

Credit to the public grew 31.7 percent to NIS 3.87b.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel Shipyards workers protest privatization process: Israel Shipyards workers gathered in front of the Treasury yesterday to protest the ministry's "lack of consideration to workers' rights in the shipyard's privatization process and a lack of attention to our problems."

On Sunday the court issued a restraining order delaying Tuesday's debate on the sale of Israel Shipyards to the SKO Car group and forbidding the Knesset Finance Committee from meeting to discuss it until a discussion on the issue is held on March 12.

The Haft & Haft, Strauss, Lazer (HSHL) certified public accountants firm yesterday announced it has signed an agreement to be a member of Nexia International, one of the largest international firms in the world.

Yisrael Strauss, a partner in HSHL, said the agreement is in the framework of the firm's decision to strengthen its international activities. Strauss said HSHL will maintain its independence and flexibility. Nexia International chairman Eppo Horlings said HSHL was selected after reviewing other international firms. He said HSHL has more business than its competitors, adding that the deal will bring mutual benefit.

Nexia operates more than 300 offices worldwide. HSHL was founded in 1925, and is recognized as one of the top three firms in the country.

Boston-based tycoon wants to gain control of Bank Leumi: Boston-based tycoon Sheldon Adelson has informed the Treasury of his intentions to gain control of Bank Leumi following Edmond Safra's decision to pull out of the tender at the start of the week.

In related news, MI Holdings board of directors decided to appoint Meir Yacobson as general manager of the government-owned company, which manages the sale of the bank shares. Yacobson will take over from Gil Leidner, who resigned several months ago. In the last few years, Yacobson has managed his own business consultant company. The 43-year-old Yacobson previously managed Cial's tax division.

Israel Chemicals announced that a joint subsidiary of Fertilizers and Chemicals and Dead Sea Bromine has contracted with US-based Olin Corporation to purchase a production facility in West Virginia for \$50 million. The factory produces chemicals used in water purification.

Bezek has received an AA rating from Ma'alot, the local bond rating company, Bezek announced. AAA is the highest possible rating.

Bank, insurance policy contracts must be in larger letters: The Knesset Economics Committee has approved a bill proposed by MK Naomi Chazan whereby clauses in bank and insurance policy contracts previously printed in small print will have to appear in larger print.

Galat Production has received a \$1.7 million order for its automatic postal sorting systems from Van Geld & Loos (VGL) of Amsterdam.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (1.3.95)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.50%	5.50%	6.00%	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.75%	5.12%	5.87%	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.62%	3.75%	4.50%	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.85%	2.87%	3.50%	
Yen (¥10 million yen)	0.75%	0.62%	0.87%	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (28.2.95)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate*	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.4770	3.4770	3.4770	3.4770	3.4770
U.S. dollar	2.9633	2.9633	2.9633	2.9633	2.9633
German mark	2.0278	2.0278	2.0278	2.0278	2.0278
Pound sterling	4.6706	4.6706	4.6706	4.6706	4.6706
French franc	0.5747	0.5747	0.5747	0.5747	0.5747
Japanese yen (¥100)	3.0632	3.0632	3.0632	3.0632	3.0632
Dutch guilder	1.8070	1.8070	1.8070	1.8070	1.8070
Swiss franc	2.3586	2.3586	2.3586	2.3586	2.3586
Swedish krona	0.4023	0.4023	0.4023	0.4023	0.4023
Norwegian krona	0.4573	0.4573	0.4573	0.4573	0.4573
Danish krone	0.5100	0.5100	0.5100	0.5100	0.5100
Portuguese escudo	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
Canadian dollar	2.1289	2.1289	2.1289	2.1289	2.1289
Australian dollar	1.8187	1.8187	1.8187	1.8187	1.8187
S. African rand	0.8217	0.8217	0.8217	0.8217	0.8217
Belgian franc (F)	0.5835	0.5835	0.5835	0.5835	0.5835
Austrian schilling (S)	2.8828	2.8828	2.8828	2.8828	2.8828
Italian lire (L1000)	1.7676	1.7676	1.7676	1.7676	1.7676
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—	—
Irish punt	3.7879	3.7879	3.7879	3.7879	3.7879
Spanish peseta (100)	4.6716	4.6716	4.6716	4.6716	4.6716
	2.3075	2.3075	2.3075	2.3075	2.3075

* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Hapoalim clerk put on forced leave of absence

Galit Lipkis Beck

AN investment adviser in Bank Hapoalim's Rehovot branch has been put on a forced leave of absence until the bank's internal control committee completes its investigation into allegations he engaged in stock manipulation and persuaded a customer to buy high-risk securities.

Amnon Peled was recorded in October 1994 giving a customer advice to buy Abic Mazel warrants, nine months after the stock market started to fall. He was also heard trying to encourage the customer to engage in stock manipulation.

The Bank of Israel and Securities Authority began investigating the episode at the start of the week.

Speaking on Army Radio, Bank Hapoalim chairman Emanuel Sharon said the allegations made against Peled indicate that the bank's control network may have failed.

Discount Mortgage Bank reports rise in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

Galit Lipkis Beck

DISCOUNT Mortgage Bank, an Israel Discount Bank subsidiary, reported a 24.7 percent rise in net profits last year to NIS 31.8m. from NIS 25.5m. in 1993.

Fourth quarter earnings rose to NIS 8.2m. from NIS 6.9m.

Annualized net return on equity went up to 15.1 percent from 14.8 percent.

Atzmaut Mortgage and Development Bank, a First International subsidiary, reported a 25.9 percent rise in net profit to NIS 9.6m.

Annualized net return on equity rose to 11.2 percent from 9.8 percent.

Fourth quarter net profits rose to NIS 3.31m. from NIS 2.22m.

Total assets grew 6.1 percent to NIS 1.5 billion. Total credit to the public rose 6.3 percent to NIS 1.5b.

• The First International Mortgage Bank, a subsidiary of First International Bank, announced a 18.6 percent rise in net profit to NIS 20.4m. Annualized net return on equity increased to 9.6 percent from 8.8 percent.

Fourth quarter net profits went up to NIS 5.98m. from NIS 4.67m.

The banks total assets increased 12.2 percent to NIS 3.2b. Total credit to the public rose 13.3 percent to NIS 3.1b.

• The Arab Israel Bank, a Bank Leumi subsidiary, completed the year with an 18.9 percent fall in net profit to NIS 13.6m.

• United Kingdom Bank Leumi, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, announced a 19.8 percent rise in annual net profit to £4 million.

Nation's terms of trade worsen in 4th quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE country's terms of trade worsened in the fourth quarter, as import prices rose 2.8 percent, compared with a 1.4 percent increase for exports, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

According to the bureau, 65 percent of all import deals and 80 percent of export transactions were in dollars.

The price index of imports, excluding diamonds and fuel, was 2 percent higher last year than in 1993. The price rise was concentrated in the second half of the year, when prices increased by 5 percent.

Raw material import prices rose 2.7 percent last year, reflecting higher commodity prices, after dropping between 3 percent and 5 percent from 1991 to 1993.

Industrial raw material prices rose 2.8 percent, while the price of agricultural imports fell 1.9 percent.

Machine, equipment and vehicle import prices increased 2 percent, after dropping by 1 percent in 1993.

Consumer import prices rose 0.8 percent, with durable goods prices

jumping 2 percent, while the price of non-durables dropped 0.6 percent.

Energy import prices fell 2.6 percent, although prices rose in the second half of the year.

Industrial export prices, excluding diamonds, fell 0.6 percent, following a 3.3 percent drop in 1993.

However, during the second half of 1994, industrial export prices rose 2.7 percent, after dropping by 1.6 percent in the first half.

Diamond export prices fell 3 percent, after jumping 11 percent in 1993.

Imports, excluding diamonds and fuel, increased quantitatively 14 percent, with consumer imports shooting up 19 percent, machinery and equipment rising 17 percent and raw materials going up 11.5 percent.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, rose quantitatively by 12 percent, following an 18 percent increase in 1993. Similarly, agricultural exports went up by 9 percent.

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Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 2.9890	+0.13%
Sterling	NIS 4.7248	+0.11%
Mark	NIS 2.0405	-0.20%

INTRA STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	4003.79	+15.22
DJ Transport	1353.13	+15.14
DJ Utility	137.25	+0.39
DJ Comp	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Retail	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Health	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Energy	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Telecom	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Media	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Real Estate	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Auto	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Food	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Chemical	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Pharmaceutical	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Technology	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Aerospace	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Defense	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Shipping	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Insurance	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Banking	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Finance	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Services	1354.01	+15.18
DJ Miscellaneous	1354.01	+15.18

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	2002.8	+1.16
Nikkei	12733.5	+11.11
DAX	12733.5	+11.11
Hong Kong Hang Seng	11117.0	+7.77
Shanghai	11117.0	+7.77
London	11117.0	+7.77
Paris	11117.0	+7.77
Frankfurt	11117.0	+7.77
Amsterdam	11117.0	+7.77
Brussels	11117.0	+7.77
Stockholm	11117.0	+7.77
Copenhagen	11117.0	+7.77
Helsinki	11117.0	+7.77
Tallinn	11117.0	+7.77
Riga	11117.0	+7.77
Vilnius	11117.0	+7.77
Warsaw	11117.0	+7.77
Budapest	11117.0	+7.77
Prague	11117.0	+7.77
Bratislava	11117.0	+7.77
Vienna	11117.0	+7.77
Zagreb	11117.0	+7.77
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Belgrade	11117.0	+7.77
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Tran	11117.0	+7.77
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Veliko Tarnovo	11117.0	+7.77
Yambol	11117.0	+7.77
Slivica	11117.0	+7.77
Tran	11117.0	+7.77

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
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Amir A	41.5	-0.12
Amir B	41.5	-0.12
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Late Brugge goal sinks Chelsea 1-0

BRUGES, Belgium (Reuter) - A goal by Gert Verheyen seven minutes from time gave Club Brugge a much-needed 1-0 victory over Premier League team Chelsea in their European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final yesterday.

There were no major incidents involving fans in the stadium during the first-leg match which was preceded by a major security operation in Belgium.

But the mood turned somewhat sour after Verheyen's headed goal from a Sven Vermant free kick, although stewards managed to cool some tempers and quell any serious trouble.

Dozens of Chelsea fans stood up and shouted abuse after the goal in a section reserved for Club Brugge fans in front of the foreign press seats.

There was little drama in the stands but some thrilling moments on the pitch and Brugge had only itself to blame for the lack of goals before Verheyen broke the deadlock.

Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Juventus 1
A brilliant first-half goal from Giancarlo Marocchi helped Italian league leaders Juventus take a confident stride towards the semifinals of the UEFA Cup with a draw at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Marocchi picked up a clever back heel from striker Gianluca Vialli in the 36th minute of the quarter-final first leg and blasted the ball with his left foot low into the right-hand corner from outside the penalty area.

Although Polish international Jan Furtok poached an equalizer for the Germans from close range in the 73rd minute, 1993 winners Juventus must now be favorites to go through after the second leg in Italy in two weeks with the cushion of an away goal.

The Germans, who have struggled in the Bundesliga in recent weeks, only had themselves to blame for failing to clinch a victory at home after missing numerous goalscoring chances in the first half.

Leverkusen 5, Nantes 1
Two Nantes players and one Bayer Leverkusen player were sent off as the host Germans crushed the French league leaders in their UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg.

Jean-Michel Ferri of Nantes was dismissed in the 66th minute for elbowing Leverkusen striker Ulf Kirsten and Reynald Pedros got his

marking orders with Leverkusen defender Christian Wornen in the final minute after an argument between the two players.

Indiscipline effectively ended Nantes' hopes of reaching the semifinals as Kirsten and Brazilian Paulo Sergio both scored twice for Leverkusen, the last German club to win the trophy in 1988.

In Brugge: Club Brugge (Belgium) 1, Chelsea (England) 0 (0-0). Scorer: Gert Verheyen (83rd). Attendance: 18,000.

In Frankfurt: Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany) 1, Juventus (Italy) 1 (0-1). Scorers: Eintracht - Jan Furtok (73rd), Juventus - Giancarlo Marocchi (36th). Attendance: 42,000.

In Leverkusen: Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 5, Nantes (France) 1 (2-0). Scorers: Leverkusen - Hans-Peter Lahm (8th), Ulf Kirsten (18th, 88th), Paulo Sergio (79th, 84th), Nantes - Nicolas Ouedec (64th, penalty). Attendance: 21,400.

In Rome: Lazio (Italy) 1, Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 0 (0-0). Scorer: Steffen Freund (own goal - 89th minute). Attendance: 50,000.

FA Cup fifth round replay: Wimbledon 0, Liverpool 2 (Liverpool at home to Tottenham or Southampton in quarter-finals).

Premier League: Ipswich 0, Newcastle 2.

Baseball sides meet as exhibition season looms

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) - Striking baseball players and owners met for five hours, just two days before the start of the exhibition season.

The warm and sunny day was perfect for baseball but the strike, which completed its 200th day on Monday, kept major leaguers indoors while unheralded replacement players practiced on the diamonds of Florida and Arizona.

"It was certainly a very candid

discussion of the core issues," acting commissioner Bud Selig said. "We really did get to the heart of the matter."

In Florida, the Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago White Sox canceled five exhibition games against the Baltimore Orioles, the only team refusing to hire replacement players. Orioles owner Peter Angelos says his team will play only against minor leaguers.

Atlanta Braves president Stan

Kasten said there was no chance owners would drop their plan to use replacements culled from older minor leaguers and retired major leaguers.

"Until we have a deal, that's what we're going to continue to do," Kasten said. "We're not going to close down. If you do that, there are not going to be jobs for ushers, ticket takers, parking lot attendants, front office people. That is not an acceptable alternative."

Bloom wins after struggle

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAELI Gilad Bloom struggled to win his first round match yesterday against an unknown player in the Club Hotel Elit satellite being played in Ashkelon.

Showing a style that does not portend well for the Davis Cup tie against Norway later this month, top-seed Bloom (202 in the IBM/ATP World Singles Rankings) needed three sets to quell unranked Rob Wendell of the US, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Bloom continued to disappoint in the doubles when, with partner Eyal Erlich in a possible Davis Cup combination, they went down to Tobias Hildebrand from Sweden and South Africa's Gerit Steenkamp, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-3.

Three other Israeli players won their first round matches joining Sunday's winners Eyal Erlich, Yoni Erlich and Oren Motevassel in the second round.

Wildcard Lior Dahan (704) was the pride of the day by upsetting fifth seed Italy's Massimo Calvelli 7-6(2), 7-6(6) in a closely contested match.

Noam Behr (495) had little opposition from Robert Devens (768) from the US, winning 6-1, 6-3. Behr meets Bloom in today's second round.

Another wildcard, Amir Hadad, also surprised by beating qualifier Ivo Heuberger (814) from Switzerland, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Harel Levy was beaten by Italy's Daniele Bracciali, 6-3, 6-1.

Other results: V. Nagy vs M. Yelov 6-4, 6-3; C. Haggard vs T. Hildebrand 6-2, 3-6, 7-5; S. Koubek vs F. Maggi 6-2, 6-7(6), 6-4; I. Gaudi vs L. Teyrol 7-6(2), 6-4; A. Sarotti vs E. Grassi 6-3, 6-4; G. Galimberti vs D. Bratty 6-4, 7-6(5); Z. Fale vs G. Blumauer 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Fan stabbed in pregame fight

BRUGES, Belgium (Reuter) - A soccer fan of unknown nationality was stabbed and hospitalized yesterday in fighting before Chelsea's European Cup Winners' Cup match against Club Brugge, police said.

The police said the incident took place a few hundred meters away from the Brugge stadium despite a high profile police presence.

Nearly 500 English fans have been sent home in the lead-up to the quarter-final first-leg tie. A police official said some 90 Chelsea supporters had been arrested since Sunday, and three Ger-

mans with possible extremist links were also being held.

The English fans were arrested mainly for vandalism and drunkenness.

Police turned back many fans at the port of Ostend after the Belgian interior minister ruled that fans could be deported for not having a match ticket.

It is the first overseas trip for English soccer supporters since rioting forced the abandonment of a friendly international between Ireland and England in Dublin last month.



Japanese Bushido wrestling champion Novohiko Takada says a prayer at the Western Wall yesterday. Takada is in Israel along with 15 other wrestlers from the US and Japan for a tournament tomorrow in Tel Aviv. (Efraim Kishitok)

Pacers beat Celtics, win 7th straight

BOSTON (AP) - Rik Smits scored 25 points, Reggie Miller added 24 and Mark Jackson had 17 assists Monday night as the Indiana Pacers extended their winning streak to seven games with a 108-97 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Smits' dunk with 5:38 to play

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	42	13	.764	0
New York	36	19	.655	6
Boston	32	22	.593	10
New Jersey	32	22	.593	10
Miami	20	38	.377	21
Philadelphia	15	40	.273	27
Washington	13	40	.245	28

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	33	20	.620	0
Charlotte	33	20	.620	0
Cleveland	33	21	.611	1
Atlanta	27	28	.491	7.5
Chicago	27	29	.483	8
Milwaukee	21	34	.382	13.5
Detroit	20	34	.370	14

Rabkin wins national bowls tourney - again

JEFF Rabkin won the National Masters Bowls Tournament for the fifth successive year, and for the eighth time in as many tries.

Unbeaten throughout the tournament, Rabkin beat Itz Shamos 21-9.

In a playoff for the bronze, Lawrence Mendelsohn, for the second successive year, came

NORMAN SPIRO

through to win 21-13 against Gordon Silberstein, after trailing 11-5 at the halfway mark.

In the women's final, Bessie Rosenberg beat Molly Skudowitz 21-10 after 7-all at the halfway mark. Maureen Hirschowitz, a winner of every other national

title, once again found the Masters gold elusive, but took third place by beating last year's winner, Merle Swerdlow 21-8.

Selected for the tournament at the Ra'anana club were: WOMEN: M. Hirschowitz, E. Gordon, R. Kasma, C. Prager, M. Skudowitz, S. Kantor, M. Swerdlow, S. Shamos, N. E. R. Rosenberg, J. Myers, C. Scarp. MEN: C. Bransky, L. Mendelsohn, L. Averbach, B. Sher, C. Silberstein, J. Rabkin, C. Miller, Z. Bekker, B. Shefer, S. Silberstein, A. Yaron and I. Shamos.

Providence downs Connecticut, 72-70

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE University of Connecticut Huskies lost for the second time in four games, falling Monday night at Providence 72-70.

Israeli guard Doron Sheffer led UConn (22-3, 15-2 in the Big East) with a season-high 21 points, hitting on 7 of 16 from the field, including 3-5 from three-point range. It was his first game back in the starting lineup since spraining an ankle last week.

Sheffer hit a three-pointer to tie the game late in the second half, but forward Donny Marshall threw an air-ball with seconds left on a three-point attempt that would have given UConn the lead. Providence (14-11, 6-11) rebounded the miss and clinched the game with foul shots. UConn's last regular season game will be Saturday night at Miami. The Big East tournament begins in New York the following Thursday.

UCLA holds top ranking in college basketball poll

LOS ANGELES (AP) - UCLA received 61 first-place votes to take over the No. 1 ranking in this week's Associated Press college basketball poll.

The Bruins (21-2) are the fifth team in five weeks and the sixth team this season to hold the top ranking. They received 1,642 points from the national media panel to beat runner-up North Carolina (21-3).

Kansas (21-4), the No. 1 team last week, fell to third after losing to Oklahoma. The Jayhawks (21-4) received one first-place vote, as did Connecticut (22-2), which held fourth.

Kentucky, Maryland and Arkansas each moved up one place to fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively. Massachusetts, Wake Forest and Michigan State rounded out the Top Ten.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cantona's victim charged in English court

The London soccer fan who was on the receiving end of a kung-fu style kick from Manchester United star Eric Cantona last month was charged on Monday with inciting the attack, police said.

Matthew Simmons, 20, was charged with using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behavior likely to cause immediate unlawful violence by another person.

Simmons, a window insulation fitter, was released on bail and will appear in court again on March 24.

McClellan still in critical condition

American boxer Gerald McClellan remained in a critical condition yesterday, more than 48 hours after having a blood clot removed from his brain following his world title fight with Britain's Nigel Benn.

A spokesperson for the Royal London Hospital said McClellan was "critical but stable." His condition had not changed overnight.

Maxwell reinstated by NBA

Houston Rockets guard Vernon Maxwell was reinstated by the NBA on Monday after serving a 10-game suspension for going into the stands and striking a fan.

"We are satisfied that Vernon appreciates that his actions were totally unacceptable for a professional athlete, regardless of the provocation," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL - Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Bnei Ramat Gan 143-38 in last night's national league action.

NFL - Monday's results: Boston 2, Ottawa 0; New Jersey 6, Montreal 1; Pittsburgh 7, Quebec 5; St. Louis 3, Toronto 2.

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Ramon: Zvilli sabotaging my return to Labor

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon warned yesterday that he will no longer hold any meetings with Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli, who, Ramon says, "only wants to make it appear that he wants me back in Labor, but would leave a sigh of relief if I stayed out."

Ramon lashed out at Zvilli yesterday and accused him of sabotaging his Ram group's return to Labor with a set of conditions it will not accept.

Zvilli retorted by saying he had "no idea what conditions Ramon is complaining about," and accused Ramon of "mounting obstacles with his own conditions."

Meanwhile, Meretz and Shas have been undermining Ramon's

attempts to form an alignment with Labor in the Histadrut. Because of their resistance, Ramon has not yet chosen its representatives to a committee that is supposed to draw up a formula for this alignment.

Shas and Meretz fear that once Ramon aligns with Labor's Histadrut faction, they would retain almost no power in the Histadrut. Moreover, Meretz had hoped Ramon would join it to run against Labor in the 1996 Knesset elections.

Mapam this week announced that it opposes a Ram-Labor alignment. Histadrut Treasurer MK Haim Oron, of Mapam, rejected the possibility that Ramon might quit the Histadrut to return

to Labor before his term is up, even if Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin offers him a cabinet portfolio.

"Ramon must finish his term of office as Histadrut chairman, and if he desires to become a minister in the incumbent cabinet, he will just have to resist it," he said.

The latest round of recriminations between Ramon and Labor appear to have been kindled by Ramon's ally in Labor, MK Hagai Merom, at a meeting late Monday of Labor's ultra-dovish "gang of eight."

The group is comprised of Ramon, MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital - who were expelled from Labor along with Ramon - and Merom, acting Jewish

SARAH HONIG
and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and MKs Yael Dayan and Nawaf Massalha.

The eight conferred at Burg's home and heard Merom report that Zvilli has been saying that an agreement has been reached with Ramon, which includes rescinding the letters of expulsion to him, Peretz and Avital, merging the Ram and Labor Histadrut factions, and dropping any Ramon demands to amend the Labor primaries system.

Ramon was outraged at the report, saying that no agreement

had been made between himself and Zvilli and that "if Zvilli talks like this, then I will not have any more private contacts with him. If he will set up such preconditions, we will not be back in Labor."

Ramon rejected the notion of linking the merger of the Histadrut factions with his own return to Labor and was especially adamant about continuing his campaign for "open primaries in Labor."

These would allow anyone who shows up at the polling station to vote in the party primaries, and not only registered, dues-paying members. The most that would be demanded of the voter at the polling station would be a sym-

bolic fee and a declaration to the effect that he supports Labor.

Ramon is insisting on this to prevent what he fears will be "punitive vindictive measures by the party machine against me and my colleagues. I will not allow any of those who supported me to be politically slaughtered."

Ramon is sure that the party establishment will seek to prevent his and his followers election to safe slots on the next slate of Labor Knesset candidates.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Zvilli's patron, has charged that "as a result of the primaries, MKs owe no allegiance to the party, and each does

as he pleases. If this system continues unchecked, it will bring about Labor's downfall."

Giving in to Ramon's demands would bring even greater decentralization in the party, sources said.

At the session at Burg's home, Beilin expressed doubt that he will be offered the Economics portfolio in the summer, but said he might be appointed "special minister-without-portfolio" at the Foreign Ministry.

This title, which has never been used before, would basically allow Beilin to continue with his current work at the Foreign Ministry, but with the status of minister rather than deputy minister.

Nahal soldiers remanded in marijuana case

THE Central District Military Court yesterday remanded two Nahal soldiers suspected of smoking marijuana during their Nahal group's activities in Ofakim. Six other soldiers will be remanded later in the week.

The two, Reuven Ansaem and Shahar Ben-Ari, are part of an eight-member Nahal urban group serving in Ofakim.

They were active in the Meretz youth movement and joined Nahal as a group; they were sent to Ofakim to serve as educational

ALON PINKAS

and social counselors for local youths and to help the elderly.

The military prosecutor, Lt. Noam Shachner, said that 17 cases of drug abuse were recorded and both marijuana plants and drug paraphernalia were discovered in their possession. Following the first arrest by military police, the group members incriminated each other and provided investigators with evidence against all eight, the prosecu-

tor said.

Ansaem's lawyer, Ra'anan Karmon, said that the group was neglected by the army and had no supervision or any guidance concerning military discipline.

He noted the group was sent to Ofakim immediately following induction and members did not even undergo basic training.

Col. Mordechai Peled said that the behavior displayed by the eight was unacceptable, even in a civilian life-style.

One dead, 26 injured in road accidents

AMIR ROZENBLIT and Itim

A FORTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD minibus driver was killed yesterday morning after crashing into a building in Tel Aviv.

Mordechai Weisner of Rishon LeZion was killed when he either fell asleep at the wheel or suffered a heart attack which caused the car to suddenly swerve off Namir Street early yesterday morning. A woman who was sleeping behind the wall of the building hit by the minibus narrowly avoided injury.

Twenty-six people were injured in two separate accidents in the Negev yesterday.

In the first, two taxis collided near Moshav Brosh, injuring 13. Rachel Sikel, 65, of Ashkelon was seriously hurt, while two other passengers suffered moderate to serious injuries. Police determined the accident was caused by one of the drivers not yielding the right of way.

Shortly afterwards, another accident occurred nearby involving a bus and an army truck. Thirteen passengers on the bus were injured, most of them lightly. Police said the accident was caused by the truck driver's ignoring a traffic sign.

Woman held in murder of husband

RAINE MARCUS

ALINA Petersburg, suspected of murdering her husband while he was asleep in a Netanya hotel room, was remanded for 15 days by the city's magistrate's court yesterday.

The body of Yefim Petersburg was discovered on Sunday night. At first, the cause of death was not clear. A pathologist later determined the cause of death was internal bleeding in the head.

His wife initially gave contradictory statements to police, but later admitted beating her husband to death while he was asleep.

Meanwhile, the man suspected of stabbing border policeman Sharon Hajaj, 21, to death at a Petah Tikva discotheque early Saturday morning was remanded for 12 days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court.

The man, publication of whose identity was banned pending a lineup, was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport as he was about to leave the country.

The suspect's description fitted that given by eyewitnesses, said police. The murder weapon has not yet been found.

Another man, allegedly an accomplice, was also remanded.

Winning cards & numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, seven of hearts, king of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 8, 10, 15, 31, 39, 46 and the additional number was 20.



'Jerusalem Post' president and publisher Yehuda Levy presents a grant to Danielle Granicks, 26, a student at Tel Aviv University. The award, made at a ceremony at the Knesset, was one of several made possible by the Post's Welcome Home Fund. (Brian Hendler)

'Post' awards tuition grants to 26 students

LIAT COLLINS

"THE Jerusalem Post is a newspaper. Its function is to convey information and commentary. But the Post is unlike any other paper in Israel. Not only is it the only English-language daily, it is also the only one to run three funds for the needy from money contributed by its readers," Post President and Publisher Yehuda Levy said yesterday.

Levy was speaking at the annual ceremony at which 26 students received grants for tuition, courtesy of

the Post's Welcome Home Fund. The winning students, both new immigrants and native Israelis, gathered into a crowded room at the Knesset for the ceremony, co-sponsored by MK Rafi Elul and the Movement to Fight Poverty in Israel.

Elul, who heads the Knesset's social welfare caucus, told the recipients that there is no shame in being

poor. "I was also born into a needy family. The key to fighting poverty is education," he said.

Apart from the grants given yesterday, the Post has also recently distributed tuition grants to 40 students in ceremonies in Beit Shean, Rahat, and Haifa, and heaters to elderly residents of Beit Jan.

Elul promised a social welfare revolution. "In Israel, the poverty is

not worse than in some other countries in the world, but we are meant to be a Western country. There are 600,000 people living below the poverty line here, 400,000 of them children. These children can be saved through education," he said.

Several MKs took a break from the plenum to attend the ceremony, most noticeably Dalia Itzik on the first day in her new position as chairwoman of the Knesset Education Committee.

Lass withdraws bill on cigarette warning

JUDY SIEGEL

HOURS after the ministerial committee on legislation approved his private member's bill requiring cigarette companies to list the amounts of dangerous components in their products on the package, Labor MK Yoram Lass withdrew it, saying it was "superficial and harmful."

Lass's bill was one of three similar private member's bills - supported both by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh and the Dubek tobacco company - to be approved yesterday by the ministerial committee.

But after hearing The Jerusalem Post's queries on the subject, Lass decided to withdraw his bill and said he would try to persuade his two colleagues to do the same.

Lass conceded that stating ingredients dangerous to health could serve as a "legal shield" for tobacco companies against class-action suits by smokers and former smokers who developed diseases linked to smoking.

If cigarette packs display concentrations of these substances, manufacturers could claim smokers had

been warned and that the companies bore no liability.

"I admit to a certain amount of superficiality in preparing my bill," Lass told the Post, after "consulting with a number" of experts.

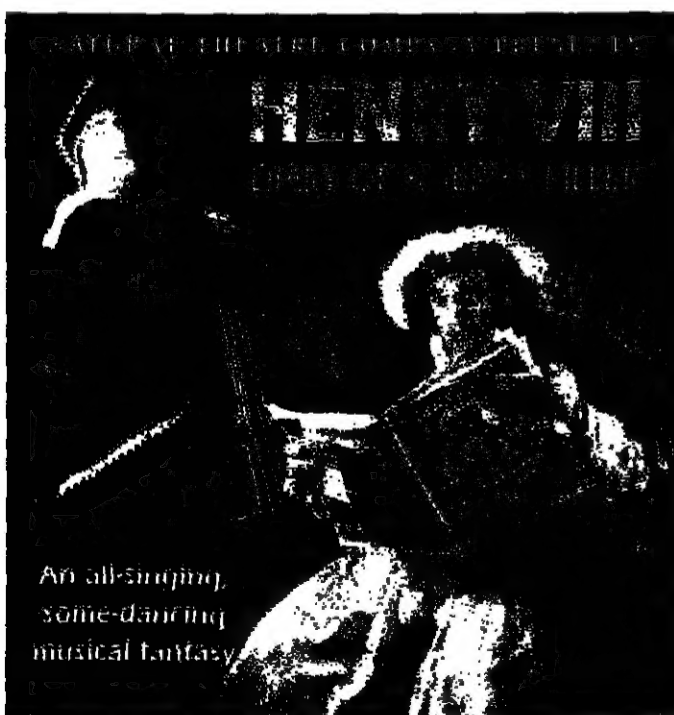
"On the face of it, the bill seemed sensible. But I realize now that I made a mistake: I will try to get the other MKs to cancel their bills and the health minister to oppose this legislation, which would allow tobacco companies to mislead the public."

No comment could be obtained from Sneh, who is abroad, or from anyone else in the ministry about why the minister supported the three bills.

Dubek spokesman Ran Rahav said yesterday that the tobacco company "favors" the three bills, as listing components on cigarette packs "is practiced in Western countries around the world."

He declined to explain why Dubek favored bills that would force it to list ingredients.

"It is not in our interest to tell you," he asserted.



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